

# The Journal

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF ALBANY, EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON / JANUARY 28, 1999 / 50¢ TAX INCLUDED

AMS principal received early lessons in values / A3

**Sports** St. Mary's soccer gets rich with Richey / B3

## Cop on campus wins board vote

By JAMES CARTER

ALBANY — The Board of Education voted Tuesday to apply for a federal grant that, if approved and accepted, would station an armed police officer at Albany High School.

However, they did so with the proviso that public discussions — to include students, parents, and teachers — would begin as soon as next week. Depending upon the outcome of those public forums, board members seemed to agree that the COPS on Campus program is not a done deal.

The vote was 5-0, with two abstentions.

The decision followed a long debate launched when two student members of the board questioned the need for an armed po-

lice officer on campus. Sara Meister suggested most students at AHS feel the campus is safe and are concerned the board is acting without considering their views.

According to Meister and Emily Jackson, the other student representative, many students already think the campus looks and feels like a "prisoner-of-war camp," and the addition of an officer could add to that perception, creating the impression of an "armed guard."

Chief of Police Larry Murdo suggested there was no "secret government plan" to station an officer on campus and harass students. Nothing could be further from the truth, Murdo said, reminding everyone the idea to ap-

See CAMPUS on page A14

## Mayor calls for vote on redevelopment

By J.R. DEATON

EL CERRITO — In a bold and unexpected move, Mayor Gina Brusatori has called for a November vote "up or down on redevelopment."

Speaking Monday at an El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce dinner, Brusatori said that "those who oppose redevelopment and those who support it may be reaching an impasse" and a ballot measure could settle the issue.

"My hope is that by holding a referendum on redevelopment, members of the community can agree to abide by the results and move on," Brusatori explained.

She said there could be more than one ballot measure and that citizens opposed to redevelopment should have a voice in framing the questions.

Should the Redevelopment Agency "go into hiatus" until its debt to the city is repaid as the Financial Review Team has recommended?

See VOTE on page A14

## Redevelopment dominates discussion at services committee

By J. R. DEATON

EL CERRITO — Only one person walked out of the meeting in anger — and he returned in a few minutes and apologized — so the latest Committee of the Whole meeting was a success.

Dissenting reports from a former member of the Financial Review Team about what to do

concerning the Redevelopment Agency has caused brisk debate at the last few Services for the 21st Century Committee of the Whole meetings.

"During the discussion at the FRT meeting last week — I wasn't sure if I was about to be censured or impeached — I decided to resign instead," said Brad Cafetel at

See SERVICES on page B4



Joanna Shanda

Bob Weaver's Old West Gun Room looks the part with wagon wheels and moose antlers on the exterior.

## Old West Gun Room is one-of-a-kind

By J.R. DEATON

EL CERRITO — If Elvis had a gun shop on his Graceland, it would have been somewhere like the Old West Gun Room.

place is kitschy and tacky, but in a unique way. It has wheels chained into its curved tin roof and a big Colt revolver perched atop the building. There are moose antlers hanging inside. World War II Japanese rifles for door handles. People come in and talk about their recent protocol.

gun room is so kitschy, you can't help but laugh or cry — pre-arranged place forever or tear it down. It's a Starbuck's there. The feeling the gun room has is appreciated by the powers

that be in the city. From time to time, civic leaders hint about redevelopment zones and enlarging the Plaza west of San Pablo Avenue into the space where the gun room is located. A move is afoot to place extra taxes on gun and ammunition sales in El Cerrito and you can't get much more politically incorrect than guns.

But the eccentric little shop, besides selling ammunition, gun supplies and antique and modern firearms, also serves as a kind of informal social club for many people. Anytime you visit, there seems to be a few middle-aged guys, and maybe a gal or two, just kind of hanging out and gabbing with friends.

"It's our Cheers," said 28-year-old Annemarie Brown who was at the gun room last weekend with her husband, Scott. About 4-1/2 years ago Brown bought a gun at the shop just prior to a

cross-country road trip. There was a man sitting in the corner who kept "piping in" she noted — giving his two cents about this or that. Brown said she took a gun safety class and discovered she was a good shot and that she enjoyed shooting. Brown and her father visited the shop a few more times and "that guy in the corner" was there each time, she said. Brown assumed the man was an employee of the shop. "That guy," Scott Brown, was a regular visitor to the shop and he finally asked for her phone number and the two started dating and were married last July.

The Browns live in Hercules and Scott said they come to the shop about once a week to visit and sometimes buy something. Scott, who used to work nearby, said the gun room "became an after-work hangout" about eight years ago when he started drop-

ping by at the end of the day "to see what was happening."

Bob Weaver, who has owned and operated the business since 1984, seems to be the kind of man you want a gun shop owner to be. He is soft-spoken and calm and seems quietly sure of himself. There is nothing showy or macho about his manner and you get the feeling that Weaver has never handled a gun recklessly in his 43 years. But, all the same, you suspect that if a bad guy threatened him or his, the miscreant would be facing the business end of a gun barrel faster than you

See GUN ROOM on page A14

## EC department store effort's driving force

By J.R. DEATON

EL CERRITO — Some people at the Plaza and ask why — Perka looks at the Plaza and asks why not. Why not a nice center? Why not a department store? Why not a

Perka, who has lived in the city for 20 years, organized a store that was eventually named after her. More than 10,000 people in El Cerrito and surrounding areas.

Perka's remarkable effort that she made in late 1997 and actively

continued through last summer. She began and sustained the petition without city help — oftentimes driving to different addresses to get one signature here — another there.

She stood outside stores and asked people to sign. She stood outside City Council meetings and asked people to sign. She distributed and collected signature sheets. She put together a presentation booklet touting the qualities of her city to entice a department store to the Plaza. She personally delivered the petition signatures and her booklet "Gottschalks Be Our Store in El Cerrito!" to Gottschalks' Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Joe Levy. She traveled to Fresno, Gottschalks' headquarters, to urge an El Cerrito department store and convinced Gottschalks' personnel to attend City Council and Redevelopment Agency meetings in El Cerrito.

In between, Perka also became a member of the General Plan update Process Team and attended scores of civic meetings. Even now, as the dream of a Plaza department store seems to be fading, Perka said she sees the glass as half full instead of half empty.

And one also suspects it is a rose-colored glass. In a recent in-

terview at her Arlington Boulevard home, Perka talked about her department store efforts, the General Plan update and her hopes for El Cerrito.

"What we need to concentrate on is Gottschalks has said that they are still interested in coming to El Cerrito," Perka said when asked if she still thinks a department store is a Plaza possibility. "They prefer the Plaza, but maybe there is another spot in town and they said they would be willing to consider something," she added.

Perka said she is still working with Gottschalks to get a department store in El Cerrito — if not at the Plaza then someplace else in the city. Most City Council members have said directly or strongly implied that a department store is simply not going to happen at the Plaza. But Perka, the self-described "eternal optimist," refused to concede even this point when questioned repeatedly.

"I'm not sure how to answer that," she first said when asked if there is still a chance for a Plaza department store. After a long pause, she finally said "anything is possible." Perka pointed out that things change when it comes to Plaza negotiations. "We were

being told, back in June and July, that the Plaza property owners did not want a BART parking garage," she said "and here we are in January being told that they really want a BART parking garage."

Talking to Perka, it's clear she knows more than the average bear about department stores, market area incomes, East Bay demographics and local advertising published rates.

"Department stores usually do get some sort of a deal — whether it's less in rent or less for the property — because they bring in so many customers," Perka explained. "They're a drawing card, and they also are the ones that do the advertising," she added.

She said a department store at the Plaza would attract more customers for all businesses.

Perka said a department store in El Cerrito would not just serve the residents of the city, but "would be something that would bring people in from other places."

In her "Gottschalks Be Our Store in El Cerrito!" booklet, Perka touts such things as El Cerrito's high average income, spending potential and desire to shop locally. There are tables and

See PERKA on page A14



Steve Matlanka

El Cerritan Kathie Perka led an unprecedented petition effort that attracted the attention of a department store chain.



## ■ Police Reports

### Citizen's arrest nabs juvenile burglar in the act

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — Officers responded to The 1200 block of Solano Avenue at about 11 p.m. on Jan. 17 when a man called to report he had been beaten up by his roommate. Officers contacted the two and observed that both had physical evidence of being physically abused. Officers arrested both Albany men, ages 36 and 38, for spousal abuse and domestic violence. They each posted \$10,000 bail and were released.

On Jan. 18 a resident reported that while he was at the YMCA on the 900 block of Adams Street, thieves stole his wallet, keys and other items from a locker. The man asked for extra patrol around his home because the thief might go to his home.

On the night of Jan. 18 Albany officers responded to the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a man causing a disturbance at a bar and refusing to leave. Officers contacted the 35-year-old Richmond man who was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested.

At about 12:30 a.m. on Jan. 19 officers observed a red '88 Jeep parked on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue and the occupant of the car was eating fast food and throwing the trash out the car window. Officers contacted the 26-year-old San Pablo man and a check found that he had outstanding warrants from San Francisco in the amount of \$5,000 for possession of stolen property and failure to appear. He was arrested.

A Richmond woman reported that sometime between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Jan. 19 thieves

stole her red '91 Jeep Cherokee, which belonged to her father, while it was parked at St. Mary's High School.

On the night of Jan. 19 a resident on the 1100 block of Slannage reported that thieves entered her home through an unlocked door and stole her jewelry.

Just before noon on Jan. 20 a business owner on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue reported that a man was selling his wares outside her store. Officers contacted the 37-year-old El Cerrito man, who had set out several items to sell, and found that he had an outstanding BART warrant for narcotics violations. He was arrested.

On the afternoon of Jan. 21 officers were called to Albany High School on reports of two 18-year-old men, who were not students, who were on the campus and refusing to leave. Officers escorted the pair off the campus.

At about 1 a.m. on Jan. 22 a resident on the 700 block of Jackson Street reported that thieves had broken into his blue Honda Civic.

At about 9 p.m. on Jan. 22 the Blockbuster Video store, on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue, reported that a group of six juveniles ran into the store, stole video games and a game machine, and then ran out. They were last seen running into the Albany Bowl. They were gone when officers arrived.

On the afternoon of Jan. 23 officers observed a man crossing San Pablo Avenue against a red light. He was contacted and the 43-year-old transient man was found to have an outstanding Oakland warrant in the amount

of \$1,109 for driving with a suspended license. He was arrested.

At about 11 p.m. on Jan. 23 officers responded to the 1200 block of Solano Avenue on reports of a business owner who had caught a subject breaking into his store and had made a Citizen's Arrest. Officers contacted the 16-year-old Albany boy who had burglary tools. He was arrested for possession of burglary tools and violation of probation and was transported to Juvenile Hall.

At about 1 a.m. on Jan. 24 officers stopped an '85 Mazda for a traffic violation and the driver, a 38-year-old man, was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested.

At about 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 24 a resident on the 1100 block of Portland Avenue reported he had been attacked by three subjects he described as Asian male juveniles. He stated that they stole his backpack and wallet. They then fled in a vehicle looking similar to a green Ford Explorer. The victim was also able to give officers a partial license plate number.

During the week of Jan. 17 Albany officers fingerprinted 11 people at their request, towed four cars, responded to 15 false alarms, attended to nine lost or deceased animals, assisted eight people who were locked out of their house or car and responded to two reports of barking dogs. In the domestic arena officers responded to one stand-by, three reports of domestic disputes, eight reports of civil disturbances, and 84 civil assists. Officers stopped 73 vehicles issuing 34 citations and 39 warnings. Albany firefighter/paramedics responded to one fire call and 15 medical emergencies.

11 as they combed the area near Terrace and Balra searching for a man suspected of breaking into automobiles. The man was arrested for possession of burglary tools.

During the afternoon of Jan. 12, on the 1700 block of Eastshore Boulevard, a thief broke through the window of a Honda Civic then a Toyota Tercel, and stole an in-dash stereo and other items.

Two young thugs prowling around El Cerrito Plaza Jan. 16 confronted a 67-year-old man and demanded his money. When told he had nothing, the thugs pushed the man down the embankment of Cerrito Creek where he tumbled and rolled, landing in the creek itself.

At 1 a.m. on Jan. 17, police attempted to pull over a speeder at San Pablo Avenue near Eu-

## ■ Worth Checking Out

### Soroptimist Country/Western dance benefit

The Soroptimist International of Albany presents a Country and Western Dance on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Building, 1325 Portland Ave. Refreshments will be available. Tickets are \$10, and may be purchased at Albany Adult School, 655 Key Route Blvd., or Arrow Glass, 640 San Pablo Avenue. All proceeds fund the Albany Community Service Projects.

### AHS Theater Ensemble

The AHS Theater Ensemble presents the opera comedy "Lend Me a Tenor," by Ken Ludwig, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the AHS Little Theater. Tickets: \$5 for students, \$7 for adults. Details: 524-7601.

### Opening in Albany

Citizens of Albany are encouraged to apply for the vacancy of Board of Education representative to the City of Albany Park and Recreation Commission a letter of interest must be submitted to the Albany Unified School District, 904 Talbot Ave., Albany, 94706, no later than Friday, Jan. 29. The Board of Education will appoint the representative at its meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

### Help find frogs

Friends of Five Creeks and Friends of Baxter Creek need volunteers to listen for frog calls on Berkeley, Albany and El Cerrito creeks as part of a nationwide volunteer survey on declining amphibian populations, and to help with restoration. Learn early to identify calls at 7 p.m., Monday Feb. 1, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. For information, call 848-9358 or email susanschwartz@aol.com.

### Gary Lapow in Albany

The Buddy Club presents its own sing-along with Bay Area legend Gary Lapow on Sunday, Feb. 7 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Lapow, one of the country's most popular children's singers, will be featuring music from his newest album, "Strong, Smart and Free". His interactive call-and-response music has won numerous Parent Choice awards. Tickets: \$6 per person (under 2 years free). Details: 652-SHOW.

### Community Health Fair

Doctors Medical Center offers free blood pressure and glucose screenings for men and women at a free community Health Fair at its Pinole campus, 2151 Apian Way, Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. February is Heart Month and also Black History Month, and African-American families need to be aware they have a 38 percent higher death rate from heart attack than white women and a 76 percent

higher death rate from stroke. There will also be a cooking demonstration, nutrition and diabetes information, exercise and fitness tips, door prizes and giveaways. Everyone is invited. Details: Beth Rebeck, 970-5021.

### 'Rameau and Company'

On Sunday, Feb. 7 at 3 p.m., the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, presents "Rameau and Company," a concert featuring three notable early music professionals: Charlene Brendler, harpsichord, Louise Carslake, baroque flute, and Lynn Teutenberg, viola da gamba. The artists will perform late Baroque instrumental music — from flamboyant to tender — in solo and ensemble combinations. Suggested donation: \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors and students. The church is wheelchair accessible and parking is free. Details: 525-0302.

### Novelcan Harris reception

A musical reception honoring Novelcan Harris will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, 1427 Filbert St., from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a special tribute "This is Your Life" featuring family and friends of Harris, a long-time Richmond resident who has been active in her church and community for over 50 years. She is the owner of one of the oldest beauty salons in Richmond, which she opened in 1944. Music will be performed by local Bay Area talent, and special guests from Georgia and Los Angeles. The theme is "A Model of Spiritual Strength." Details: Fran Miller-Harris, 233-2645 or Carolyn Smith, 529-0914.

### African American storytelling

On Sunday, Feb. 21, in celebration of Black History Month, the Richmond Museum of History presents Mario, in an afternoon of storytelling in the African American tradition. The one-hour performance will begin at 2 p.m. in the Museum's Seaver Gallery. Described as "spellbinding," Mario is a well-known local performer who has traveled far as Africa in search of stories to delight audiences of all ages. After the performance, guests are invited to enjoy light refreshments and visit the permanent exhibits highlighting Richmond's agricultural beginnings, industrial achievement, and cultural legacy, including a new display on Richmond's "Places of Faith and Worship." The Richmond Museum of History, in the 1910 Carnegie Library building in the Old Downtown area, at the corner of Fourth Street and Hevin Avenue, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Details: 235-7387.

### Center's 20th anniversary

In celebration of the Center for Psychological Studies' 20th anniversary, a birthday dinner will be

held on Jan. 31 at the Santa Fe Grill in Albany. Alumni, faculty and students will honor the center's 20th anniversary. The dinner will be held at the historic First Church of Christ, Scientist, on Sunday Jan. 31, at 3 p.m. The program, sponsored by the Maybeck Foundation, will raise funds for the preservation and restoration of the church, which is considered one of architect Bernard Maybeck's masterpieces. It is located at 2619 Dwight Way, Bowditch. After the dinner the building will be open to the public. Tickets purchased in advance are \$20 (students), tickets at the door are \$25 (donors), \$40 (seniors). Details: 524-0291.

### Benefit organ recital

John Fenstermaker, organist of Santa Fe Cathedral, will present a benefit organ recital at the historic First Church of Christ, Scientist, on Sunday Jan. 31, at 3 p.m. The program, sponsored by the Maybeck Foundation, will raise funds for the preservation and restoration of the church, which is considered one of architect Bernard Maybeck's masterpieces. It is located at 2619 Dwight Way, Bowditch. After the dinner the building will be open to the public. Tickets purchased in advance are \$20 (students), tickets at the door are \$25 (donors), \$40 (seniors). Details: 524-0291.

### Gourmet pancake buffet

On Feb. 27 from 8:30 to 11 a.m., the Hills Nursery School sponsors a gourmet pancake breakfast at the El Cerrito Community Center, Mooser Lane. Come for a breakfast with Anne's pancakes, real maple syrup, bacon, eggs, fresh juice and Peet's coffee. Lots of fun, including music by Robbie Dunbar, face painting, balloons and a treasure hunt. Call 848-9358 for tickets, \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for kids under 12.

### People and Biodiversity

The 1999 public lecture series of the Natural History Museums is "People and Biodiversity: Impact and Involvement." The series explores the interface between humans and other species, growing human population and society, and the impact on our planet. Biologist, Ted J. Case, Professor of Biology at the University of California, San Diego, presents the first lecture, which will address the impact of heavily urbanized areas in Southern California on fragmented habitats. All lectures are free and open to the public. All are on the first Tuesday of the month. Details: 642-2300.

## Cigarettes prove a valuable burglary commodity

By JAMES CARTER

ELCERRITO — Where there's smoke there's no buyer. During the early morning of Dec. 15, a thief entered an unlocked garage on the 1400 block of Liberty Street and stole 90 cartons of cigarettes.

A man in his late teens or early 20s held up Kragen Auto Supply on San Pablo Avenue Jan. 6. The thief, brandishing a steel-blue revolver, fled after stealing \$235.

A thief opened a locked mailbox on the 1600 block of Lexington Jan. 7 and ripped off mail he found there.

On Jan. 8 at 3:30 p.m. a customer waiting to deposit cash at Mechanics Bank on San Pablo Avenue was held-up by the man in line behind him. The thief made an easy get away.

One hour later, at the same bank, another man waited his turn in line then handed a teller a note disclosing his intention to rob her. After reading the letter, the teller glanced up at the thief who, disguised by sunglasses, announced he was carrying a gun

and that if she didn't give him the cash quick, he would blow her away. The teller cooperated and the thief casually strolled out into the light of San Pablo Avenue.

A young man with shoulder-length hair pointed a .22-caliber pistol at a man on Eastshore Boulevard Jan. 8 and said "break yourself." Thrusting the gun forward to clarify his meaning, the thief stole \$285 and is wanted for armed robbery.

It was no laughing matter Jan. 8 when police pulled over a woman during a traffic stop and discovered she was in possession of nitrous oxide. The woman admitted she used the gas "on occasion," but with a straight face said she was not under the influence of the gas that night. Police are investigating.

At 9 p.m. on Jan. 10, a female on the 700 block of Kearny Street was arrested after punching a man and threatening him with a knife.

A man carrying a large screwdriver and a specially-crafted key used to jimmy car locks was stopped by police at 1 p.m. Jan.

reka Street. However, he refused to comply and, apparently intent on reaching his final destination, led police on a chase that ended at El Cerrito Police Station. The man was arrested for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

A vandal smashed the window of a car on the 10600 block of San Pablo Avenue Jan. 18.

At Big 5 Sporting Goods Jan. 18, a man in a blue ski mask pulled out a chrome handgun and robbed the store. As he waved the gun at staff and customers, at around 8 p.m. the thief cleared out two cash drawers taking a total of \$450, then calmly walked out the door.

A thief stole the tires and rims of a car parked on the 11800 block of San Pablo Avenue Jan. 19.

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### The Journal

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HOW TO REACH US - The Journal is published every Thursday and business offices are located 5707 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. All items in publication should reach us 10 days in advance of publication and may be mailed, faxed or, preferably, e-mailed.

HOW TO ADVERTISE - Classified advertising deadlines are 11 a.m. the day before publication. To place a classified ad call (510) 339-8777, fax (510) 339-6101. To place a display ad call (510) 339-4030.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE - Subscriptions are \$25 per year if carried delivered within the Journal's circulation area. U.S. mail subscriptions within the United States are \$100 for one year or \$50 for six months. To subscribe or report a delivery problem call (510) 339-4040.

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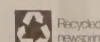
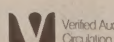
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## Berkeley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed

6:30 pm: Happy hour and games of chance  
7:30 to 10 pm: Dinner with pasta, salad & crab

at H's Lordships  
199 Seawall, Berkeley Marina

Dinner Tickets:  
\$30  
per person



Friday,  
January 29

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BERKELEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
1834 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703  
or by fax to (510) 549-1789





# AMS principal learned early lessons about perseverance

By JAMES CARTER

Arturo Flores was 6 years old when he helped harvest onions in the vast agricultural fields of Fresno. Little did he know that one day, he'd be cultivating the fields of young children. Flores, who is beginning his second year as principal at Albany Middle School, had what many might consider a humble upbringing. The seventh of 14 children, Flores was raised as a migrant farmworker.

During the many years his family followed the harvest, Flores said, "Being a migrant farmworker on the one hand was exciting and an adventure. You were wondering what would happen next."

There was an obvious downside to Flores' life. He attended three different schools every year. It was hard because you had to go back to re-establish yourself wherever you went," Flores said. "Teachers were often not receptive to us because we were migrants — we were different. There were some I was not very good to me at least, and they didn't develop into critically thinking individuals."

As a migrant worker, the Flores family lived in California City, El Paso, Mountain View, Mendota, Morgan Hill and other places, where Flores said, "And we were going back and forth from place to another."

According to Flores, there were certain advantages gained by growing up as he did. "When you're basically working from sun-up to sundown from age 6 — and even at age one you're out there on the fields with your mother and father — well, you really learn about life and hard work. There was never a better lesson than that."

To this day Flores is driven. The experience of working in the fields with his family also gave him a different view about material things. "When you're a migrant worker you really don't have very many possessions," he said. "You don't really have furniture, you don't really have all those accoutrements things. Every where we went we re-established ourselves. We made do with what we had."

"My poor mother furnished the house wherever we lived the best she could," he said. "She took her dishes, photo albums, clothes, and any other little thing that might be important to reestablish a home. Wherever we went she was definitely grounded enough to make sure we had a home."

## Family roots

Salvador Flores, Arturo's father, was born in Fresno, Calif. Yet at the age of 9, his entire family was illegally deported to Mexico as were many other Latinos at the beginning of the Great Depression. Ten years later, his father returned to the United States, yet continued to make the trip back and forth to

Mexico frequently. It was there that he met Leonor, Arturo's mother, a beautiful young woman born and raised in Durango.

Traveling and moving around seemed as natural as the seasons to Flores' father, who was also a bricklayer. It became a way of life that gave young Arturo a unique view of the world.

In 1966, the family finally settled down in Gilroy, where Flores played football in high school. He also played ball at a community college where he continued his education. But a series of sports injuries helped Flores realize it was important to pursue a career. So he transferred to U.C. Santa Barbara where he received his bachelors degree. It was there he discovered he wanted to teach.

"I looked back on all the influences in my life and realized that most of the positive influences were from people who either mentored, coached or taught me," Flores said. "And I realized the value of being able to give back some of the lessons I learned."

## Soul searching

After graduating from college, Flores took some time off and traveled to the South Pacific for six months where he visited Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tahiti, and the Cook Islands. "It was pretty much a time to reflect, to look at my future and decide: what's next? When I came back I was ready to start teaching. I also realized the need to improve my skills and continue my education

so I could become a better teacher."

It wasn't long before the future middle school principal decided to go to graduate school. He attended Harvard, where he received a graduate degree in planning and social policy.

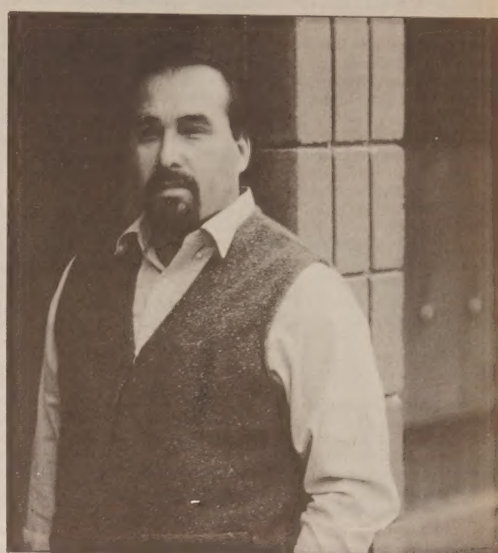
Flores moved on to Washington, D.C. and quickly landed a job at Oyster Elementary School where he taught for six years. Oyster was a unique school that employed a bilingual language immersion program which included children from around the world.

"There were the sons and daughters of maids and the sons and daughters of diplomats at Oyster," Flores said. "And just like here in Albany, the teachers were exceptional and dedicated to providing the best education available."

Accepting his first administrative position, Flores became vice-principal of Cardoza High School, an inner-city school in the heart of the nation's capital. It was quite a change from Oyster Elementary — the school was huge, for one thing, and it was located in an extremely poor neighborhood. Yet Flores enjoyed the experience and loved the kids.

"There were a lot of young people that wanted to succeed but didn't have the opportunity," Flores said. "It's just like any other place — there were a handful of kids that make it difficult for them."

Nevertheless, according to Flores, "by working with these



Joanna Jhanda

Albany Middle School Principal Arturo Flores wants to impart the values he learned as a youngster.

kids, you could see what resiliency is all about. Despite all the things they had to go through, they wanted to learn. They wanted to succeed. They wanted to do well."

When his wife was accepted into UC Berkeley's graduate school of public health, the Flores family seized the opportunity to move back to California.

"I was real lucky," Flores said. "I landed right here in the Village next door and ran into Terry Corpuz. She took a chance on me. She hired me as her vice principal. We had a great relationship," he said.

"She was a great administrator, a great person, and I really enjoyed being under her tutelage,

so to speak. I really miss her."

Having to step into the late principal's shoes was not an easy task for Flores, especially considering the quite different styles of the two administrators. Yet Flores feels very welcome at the school and in Albany in general.

"This community has been accepting of who I am and how I do things," Flores said. "The kids are great and there are great teachers who work very hard to help these kids along. They put in a lot of extra time, believe me, to try and help these kids succeed. And the parents are really involved in the education of their kids. They are absolutely fantastic. It's a pleasure to work in this community."

## Residents speak out on 'tweaking' old General Plan

By J.R. DEATON

CERRITO—At a public hearing last week, the City Council invited people to talk about the General Plan and their dreams for El Cerrito's future.

After hearing from residents, the council voted unanimously to draft a new General Plan based on the current plan. The vote confirmed an earlier decision that the old General Plan looks pretty good and that, after some "tweaking," will guide the city into the next century.

It's not a second class city,"

resident Barbara Hill told the council.

Hill said some people tend to put El Cerrito down as a "sleepy place," or just a bedroom community.

"Hey—it's not true," she said. She praised the city's people, location, topography, parks, open spaces and creeks.

"In this process, the important thing is vision — vision," Hill told the council.

She said the city is "in the middle of the most vital area on the west coast" with lots of potential and assets.

Hill said the "bedroom" part of El Cerrito can be maintained

while becoming a "high-tech urban village" or other model development.

"This is a dynamic place—and I really hope that we don't settle for bad development," she said and then added: "We don't have to beg anybody to come in here." Hill praised the city and the city staff and said businesses will be

"clamoring" to come to El Cerrito.

She said that city offices, currently housed in temporary trailer-like buildings, will someday be replaced by "a great city hall and a great civic center" and told the council to "just have the vision."

The General Plan, mandated

See PLAN on page A10

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## One step forward and two steps back

We know that the effort to turn around our schools involves many complex issues. However, there is broad consensus that involvement of parents, teachers, employees, and community are key ingredients.

Sustaining momentum in an organizing effort is never easy and when the effort involves a school district with five cities and 50 schools it is pretty darn challenging. But recent contradictory school board actions can make it seem almost impossible at times. Fortunately, some school sites are beginning and continuing some excellent work providing glimpses of hope on the horizon.

### Partnership Council delayed

Last September the board unanimously adopted a plan for the development of school site councils. (See West County School Watch for Sept. 10, 1998 - <http://www.igc.org/westcounty/sep1098.htm> )

In so doing the idea was not to favor school site councils over other parent and community organizations active at our school sites. Rather, the plan was to begin with school site councils because they must be present at every school.

Last fall, leaders from every school site council participated in an excellent training involving trainers from the district and the California Teachers Association.

The approved plan was to follow-up these trainings with the establishment of a "Partnership Council," a network of representatives from each of the district's 50 site

councils.

Although key dates have already passed, the committee assignments necessary to initiate the Partnership Council have not been made. Even though the plan was approved months ago some felt to do so now would be hasty in light of the imminent arrival of our new superintendent.

I can see that logic but have to note the only initiative for which it was invoked was the one which involved parent, community, teacher and employee empowerment. Coincidence?

### Hercules Citizens Commission rejected

Last Dec. 9 the WCCUSD held a town hall meeting in the City of Hercules regarding the oft delayed Hercules Middle/High School (see <http://www.igc.org/westcounty/121798.htm>).

Many at the meeting voiced a variety of concerns about the status of the school and the district's efforts to build it.

A common refrain was the need for more ongoing communication between the district, citizens, and the City of Hercules.

Several participants voiced a proposal to establish a citizens commission to include district and city representatives, parents, and other concerned parties.

On Jan. 20 my proposal to establish this commission was voted down by the board on a 2-1 vote.

The opposition to the proposal voiced the concern that establishment of such a commission would require too

much staff time. Staff time is a precious commodity that must be invested wisely — precisely the reason it is a good investment to communicate actively in order to avoid the massive drain on staff time when rumors mushroom out of control.

### Neighborhood service Center Established at Dover School

Now for a step forward. On Thursday, January 21, Partners for Health celebrated the grand opening of a new neighborhood service center located at Dover Elementary School in the City of San Pablo. The center will offer a variety of services directly aimed at helping neighborhood residents find jobs and work together to improve the health of children and families.

Situated in a portable which also serves as the school's parent room, the service center is an activity of Partners for Health, a broad-based collaborative "implementing a community-driven plan to improve the quality of life and expand services in four West Contra Costa neighborhoods — Iron Triangle, North Richmond, Parchester Village, and West San Pablo."

Speaking at the grand opening the center's coordinator, Janie Holland, thanked Dover's principal, Harriet MacClean, and her staff as well as the many agencies part of the Partners for Health collaborative for the support necessary to launch the program. If the



### West County School Watch

By Glen Price

enthusiastic send-off is any indication it is truly off to a great beginning.

Our West County schools can become focal points for community involvement but it takes some key resources: leadership and a collaborative spirit are two indispensable ingredients.

Want to receive West County School Watch and other action alerts on local school issues delivered to your email address? Send the message "Subscribe" to [pakglenn@aol.com](mailto:pakglenn@aol.com). Glen Price is a member of the WCCUSD school board; the opinions and views expressed in West County School Watch are his own and do not reflect official views or positions of the school board or WCCUSD unless otherwise noted. Back issues of West County School Watch and other sundry items can be found on the West County School Watch web site: <http://www.igc.org/westcounty/>

## Albany PTA Council News

By Kay Weinstein

### Albany PTA Council

• Saturday, January 30, Meeting with Marianne Camp, AUSD Director of Curriculum  
Topic: Split Reading in Primary Grades, 10 a.m., AMS Library

### Cornell Elementary School

Feb. 10, PTA Meeting, Cornell Library

### Albany Citizens Parcel Tax Committee

Jan. 28, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., AMS Library

### AUSD Board of Education

Feb. 9, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

### Albany High School

• SCRIP Orders: Support AHS by buying Safeway, Andronico's or Lucky certificates.  
Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782 or Belinda Lum at 528-2429.

• Friday, Jan. 29 and Saturday, Jan. 30, AHS Theater Ensemble presents "Lend Me a Tenor," a comedy directed by AHS student Jordan Wood, 8 p.m., AHS Little Theater.  
• Feb. 1, PTA Meeting, 7:15 p.m., AHS Little Theater  
Topic: Visual and Performing Arts Standards

• Saturday, Feb. 6, AHS Choir Disneyland Trip Fundraiser, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rummage Sale/Bake Sale/Car Wash. Please join us and support the AHS Choir!

Baked Goods and rummage sale contributions can be dropped off at the AHS Little Theater between 3:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday Feb. 5 or call Kris Hansen (510-527-8337) or Bill Rasmussen (510-526-0713) for pick-up on Friday, Feb. 5.

### Community Notice

A concerned citizen reports that she observed a caregiver treating a child, and would like the parents to be aware of the situation.

The incident occurred on 10 or 11 around 3 p.m. in the south side of Solano Ave. near Ramona.

The infant was light-skinned and approximately 1-year-old. The caregiver was dark-skinned, tall, medium weight, her mid 20s to early 30s.

She was wearing baggy blue and white pants and a blue jacket.

The infant was sitting in an umbrella stroller, and the caregiver was struggling with the child about wearing a hat.

She was scolding the child harshly and shaking her finger at the child.

When the caregiver realized that she was being observed, she appeared to be quite uncomfortable. She then quickly walked the street with the child in the stroller, and returned down the street a half-hour later. If you know the parents of this child, please notify them.

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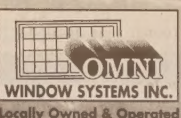
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# Your Guide to East Bay Schools

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Arrowsmith Academy is a multicultural, college preparatory High School emphasizing critical and creative thinking and a strong academic program.

Focusing on small, interactive classes, Arrowsmith Academy strives to promote personal development. They have a high college acceptance. Their Arts program and their community Service program have won many awards. ESL classes serve the needs of foreign students.

Beacon School is dedicated to educating the whole child through a developmentally-responsive, arts-enriched curriculum. Founded in 1982 by two women committed to creating an educational environment that meets the needs of today's families, Beacon offers the only year-round, truly diverse program for preschool through middle school students in the Bay Area.

At Beacon, we focus individually on each child, using principles of mastery learning and multi-age groupings, and we create confident, high-achieving, lifetime learners.

Beacon High School offers a unique educational environment. Founded in 1991, Beacon High School has been widely praised for its innovative approach to educating adolescents.

Featuring an individualized focus, extended year calendar, block scheduling, trimester course scheduling, mastery learning, professional arts instruction, sophisticated technology laboratory, and inte-

grated advisory system, Beacon provides a rigorous academic program based upon the fundamental elements that have since been recommended by national research commissions for the reform and restructure of secondary education.

## Crocker Highlands Elementary School

is located at 525 Midcrest Road in Oakland. Crocker Highlands has a family atmosphere, an active PTA, and high student achievement standards.

On Monday, February 1 at 7 p.m., in the multi-purpose room, there will be an informational evening for all prospective parents.

In the past, we've invited prospective Kindergarten parents only. This year, we are inviting all grade levels from K through 5 to come meet the staff, ask questions and tour the school.

The Elmwood School a parent-run school, teaches the whole child through spirituality, ecological literacy, community building, intellectual learning and artistic expression.

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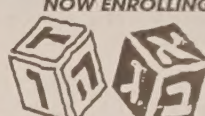
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## "Honey...Do", Repair Home Hints - Chimney Check Up

There's nothing better than a nice warm, fire on a cold winters night. Before you curl up in front of it, make sure your chimney is operating properly, has been inspected and/or cleaned in the last year, and has a rain cap/spark arrestor on top. Here are some things to look for:

**LOOSE MORTAR:** The mortar between the bricks has worn away or is cracking.

- Caused by age, rain and the occasional freeze.
- Small cracks will lead to bigger problems because water can seep in and cause more deterioration

**FAILED FLASHING:** Flashing keeps water from seeping down where the chimney and roof meet. Flashing fails for two reasons:

- The metal is punctured or torn.
- The two part overlapping system has come loose from age, wind, or rain.

**SMOKE PROBLEMS:** Excess smoke backs up into the room when a fire is lit.

- Damper is not open.
- Not enough draw (this can vary with the weather). Open a nearby window just a crack to let additional air in.
- Flue is too cold.
- Blockage in the chimney or spark arrestor such as a bird's nest or build up of creosote.

**TIP OF THE MONTH:** Clean gutters and flush downspouts-It finally looks like the rainy season has begun. Clogged gutters can lead to unnecessary water damage to walls, ceilings, foundation and more.



Photograph by Ken Rice

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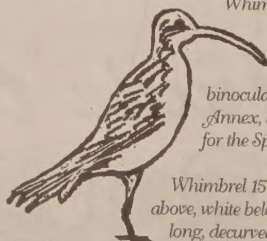
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## Wild Bird Alert The Whimbrel

Catch the Whimbrel before winter ends! The

Whimbrel hunts for aquatic invertebrates along our shores. Get a good look, with a pair of binoculars from the Wild Bird Annex, before they fly North for the Spring.



Whimbrel 15" - 17", grayish-brown above, white below, white stripes on face, long, decurved bill.



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Barry L.

Well friends and neighbors, it seems Now it is time to review what to do that very few plants were actually would not see tropical plants like areas that they do if they had actual in this area may have suffered some days and warmer weather of spring it is best to leave the damaged parts undamaged lower parts. It's only growth and new growth appears. Then it plants which are heavily damaged roses. Also, bareroot fruit trees, local nursery for planting now.



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First, don't panic. Remember  
very first of December 1990. We  
had Susan Vine covering the large  
of the tender plants that we grow  
come back with the lengthening  
have an insulating layer of snow,  
ing there to protect the remaining  
before all danger of frost is past  
problem removing those parts of the  
chance to prune and clean the  
bulbs are available at your

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## Foaming Technique Rids Sewer Lines Of Roots

Root foaming is an option for property owners with sewer root infestations.

People with this problem have traditionally called a plumber or roter service to cut roots out of their sewer line.

Now, pest control companies specializing in sewer line root control offer a way to kill tree roots (without harming the tree and help prevent their regrowth).

Sewer root foaming is not a new idea. It is widely used by municipalities in controlling roots in main sewer lines running beneath city streets and in backyard easements.

A roter service uses machines with spinning cables and root cutting blades to cut or rip roots out of a line. A problem with this method is that, basically, the roots are being pruned.

Plants react to root pruning just as they do to branch pruning, by sending out more shoots near the location of the cut. So where there was one root, now there are four or five new roots a few months later.

The process of injecting the EPA-registered foam into the sewer is fairly simple. The foam is pumped into the clean-out and adheres to roots and is pushed into cracks penetrated by the roots.

Because the foam has been squeezed into the cracks, it can kill roots several inches outside the pipe.

After the roots die, they decompose naturally in the pipe.

The foam also contains a root growth inhibitor which adheres to pipe and soil surfaces and prevents regrowth for three to five years.

Sewer root foaming is particularly effective for chronic root infestations and should be applied before re-infestations occur. If a sewer line has a history of root infestations, don't wait until it clogs before having it foamed.

## FRUIT TREE MAINTENANCE -

### The Importance Of Pruning Fruit Trees This Time Of The Year

Winter is an important season for the care of fruit trees. The next several weeks are the best time of year to address pruning requirements and disease and insect controls. Here are some of the unique qualities of fruit trees.

There is a major difference between fruit trees and Ornamental trees. Fruit trees are grafted. Nurseries select seedlings that have excellent fruit bearing characteristics and graft them onto an extremely vigorous root stock. This creates a tree capable of producing a bountiful harvest of fruit. It also creates a tree that has an extraordinary growth rate. As a result, each Spring and Summer, fruit trees effectively "bolt" and grow long whiplike verticals and long heavy laterals. This situation, if left unchecked, results in declining fruit production and worse, major broken branches. An annual reduction pruning to reshape the tree is therefore required to promote fruit production and structural health.

This annual pruning may seem simple enough until you consider that each type of fruit tree has different fruit setting characteristics. Some trees set fruit on "first year wood", some set fruit on "third year wood". Certain fruit trees create fruit on "spurs", others grow fruit from "buds". It has been quite an education, over the years, to learn all these different characteristics and maintenance requirements for each type of fruit tree. All this leads me to suggest that you may want to consult a qualified professional arborist to provide proper care for your highly valued Fruit trees.

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## Plan

Continued from page A3

by state law, is the guiding civic document for such things as land use and development, parks and open space, transportation, public safety and noise.

Last week's public hearing, held prior to the regular City Council meeting, was attended by about 13 members of the public and a similar number of staff and consultants.

Thom Stark spoke at the hearing and said the consultant's latest land use report "deserves a gold star for most improved." Stark did take issue with housing at the Plaza saying the site's "highest and best use" is as a shopping center.

"I think it's pretty clear that although their voices are loud—the portion of the community that favors placing very dense hous-

ing actually on the 31-acre Plaza property is a very small portion of this community," Stark argued.

He also urged the council not to try to make El Cerrito a "car-unfriendly" place.

"I'm in favor of making things safer and better for pedestrians—I do not think that necessarily means you have to make things unfriendly for car owners," he explained.

Also speaking at the hearing, Peter Loubal said the General Plan alternative based on a modified current plan is the "most reasonable" of those considered.

But Loubal said that traffic projections are "totally off the wall" and based on 1990 traffic counts.

He complained of "terribly imprecise" information about such things as the economic impact of housing in the proposed General Plan and hinted at a future court

challenge to the environmental impact report being drafted if questions are not answered.

Robert Odland, project manager of the General Plan update process, noted that the primary emphasis of the new General Plan should be to improve the "quality of development."

Odland said that there is consensus that in residential areas "very few changes will be made."

He also noted that the plan must be "flexible" and should "pay more attention to the impacts of development instead of the specifics of development." During the next few months, there will be more public meetings and discussion of the new General Plan.

"You will have plenty of opportunity to comment on this," Odland said at the hearing.

There is expected to be a draft plan ready for public review by the end of March.

## Chamber

Continued from A5

tate, Pastime Ace Hardware, Kiefer Furniture, El Cerrito Lions Club, El Cerrito Florist, Fatapple's Inc., Peter Pugliesi, Frank and Ann Hardina, Bo's Donuts, Anna and Tony Mascaro, The Women's Club of El Cerrito, Advanced Instruments.

U. S. Barbachano, Tri-Service Auto, Reflections Hair Design, Uncle Wong's, IBEX, Mail Boxes Etc., Nations Foodservice, Vacuum World, East Bay Sanitary, Cerrito City Club, Tulip Hardwood Floors, Bank of America, El Cerrito Plaza Co., Universal Building Services, El Cerrito Art Association.

Abbey Carpet, Al Caruso Insurance, Betty's Hallmark Shop, Contra Costa Civic The-

atre, Doherty's Truck & Auto Rental, Honda Of El Cerrito, Miniature Needleworks, Miller/Stolarczuk O.D., El Cerrito Natural Grocery, Financial Network Investment, El Cerrito Heating & Sheet Metal, El Cerrito Mill & Lumber, Nomura Preschool, Reem Pharmacy and Sunset View Cemetery.

### Racetrack outing set

Reservations are now being taken for El Cerrito Day at the Races on Wednesday, May 19.

Since tickets for this event at Golden Gate Fields are limited Chamber manager Sewall Glinternick members and their guests are urged to make arrangements as by calling 233-7040 as soon as possible.

Cost will be \$35 per person, which includes valet parking, admission to the Turf Club, and a sit-down luncheon in the VIP

Directors' Room.

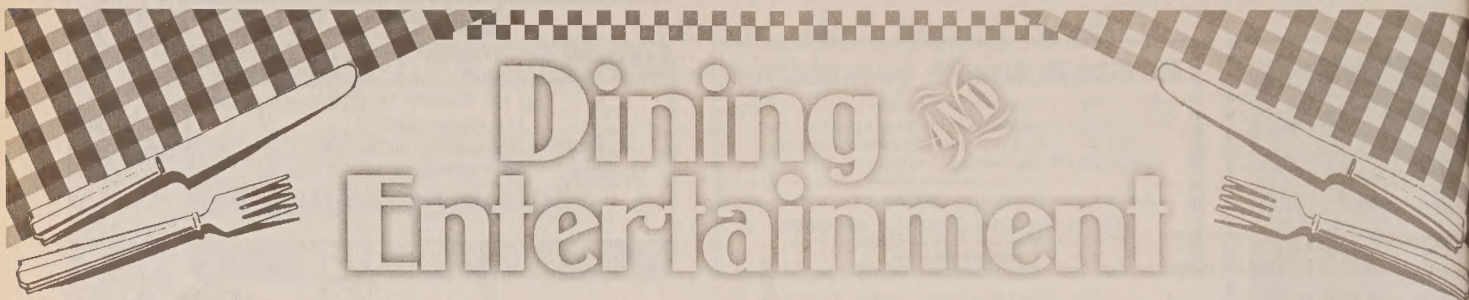
Calling for as many members as possible to attend this event Chamber Manager Sewall Glinternick asked that they bring along a friend to help carry all the money they win.

### Thanks for mixer

The El Cerrito Chamber expressed its thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Brown for kicking off the 1999 social schedule by holding a very successful mixer.

While pleased with the turnout at Fasterv Medical Center El Cerrito Plaza, Chamber manager Glinternick called on members to make an extra effort to put in an appearance at future mixers.

"The people who are able enough to spend their time, effort and money to host mixers deserve all the support our membership can give them."



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Bison also has a full espresso bar, fountain drinks, wine and hard cider. Visa/MasterCard/American Express.

**Caffe Strada**  
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Caffe Strada celebrates ten years of serving the best espresso in Berkeley. To thank our loyal customers, we are offering FREE bagels for the week of February 1st through 5th, and on Friday, February 5th we are offering FREE espresso drinks for the entire day! Try our "Strada Bianca Mocha," the drink Al Gore asked for by name.

**Crepe Devine**  
2037 Shattuck Square  
(at Addison) (510) 644-1913  
Fads come and go ... and returning to their 70s' glory are platform shoes, tie-dyed shirts and crepes. Crepe Devine has kept the best of the French crepe yet modernized the fillings to reflect California 90s' tastes.  
What this means is everything from vegetarian smoked tofu to traditional vegetable fillings (Mediterranean Delight, Greek Classic, Berkeley Special and others) are available.  
Other selections include the Chicken Pesto, Denver Crepe, including mini n' match your "Own Personal Creation." Other options are salads, soups, sandwiches and omelets.  
Everything is fresh and grilled to order. What's so impressive is everything is seasoned so delicately that you're not sure why everything tastes so great. You can taste each and every ingredient. No spice or herb overpowers, they only enhance flavors.  
Considering all crepes are hand-crafted the service is fast and the wait is very short. The price is so affordable it is hard to believe such

a large California Crepe could cost so little. Dine in or take out. Crepe Devine is mighty fine!

**Nava Restaurant**  
5478 College Ave. - Rockridge  
Oakland - (510) 655-4770  
The unique, robust Southwestern cuisine, Santa Fe style will surely please your palate. The menu includes spicy, succulent seafood featuring salmon, clams, halibut and seasonal fish.  
Nava's succulent wood-grilled rack of lamb comes with fresh mint pesto, the thick stuffed pork chop is yet another to-die-for special. The seared medium-rare ahi tuna with ancho chile and chipotle aioli is sensational. The attentive service and wine selection make Nava a dining destination.  
Experience Nava's wonderful flavors ... and clip ad for the 2 for 1 coupon. Now open for lunch Tuesday through Sunday!

**Sushi Zone**  
388 9th Street - Suite 268  
Chinatown Oakland  
(510) 893-ZONE (9663)  
Fax (510) 893-FAXS (3297)  
Sushi, sake, wasabi with wallop and all the other ingredients that make Japanese dining a pleasure awaits you at Sushi Zone.  
Chef Daisuke Shimizu has 15 years of restaurant experience and has paid close attention to customer's preferences: the best quality foods that are health-conscious and priced fairly. You'll never find MSG in their kitchen, and low-sodium soy sauce is available.  
In addition to sushi, sashimi, teriyaki, tempura, nabemono - Kobe beef and live sashimi lobster is available.  
Vegetarians need not stay home ... Sushi Zone offers salads and vegetarian sushi. Don't even think of leaving before ordering their low-fat incredible tofu cheesecake.  
Dine in, (plenty of room for large

parties), fax ahead for business luncheons, take outs available.

Validated secure parking underground after 5 p.m. Zoom over to the Zone because wonderful food awaits you.

**Walkers Restaurant & Pie Shop**  
1491 Solano Ave.  
Albany - (510) 525-4647  
Are you looking for reasons to break your New Year's resolutions? You'll find plenty on the February menu at Walkers: Pork Anglaise, Sea Bass with Ginger-Cream Sauce and Chicken Fricassee are some of your choices.

There are some special treats in store for Valentine's weekend at Walkers'. On Saturday, February 13th, the menu features Jorge's Cornish Game Hens stuffed with cranberry-studded bread crumbs and other goodies. The little lovebirds are roasted and napped with a delightful sauce. The staff has promised to look the other way if you and your sweetheart want to share succulent bits a la Tom Jones.  
Sunday, the real Valentine's Day, Doug will be grilling New York Steaks marinated in garlic and olive oil ... they'll be served with button mushrooms and a cabernet glaze.

The "catch of the day" will be baked salmon served with hollandaise sauce and a shrimp garnish.

You and your sweetheart may order from the regular menu. After a sweet ending there's always slice of Walker's famous pie.

Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, Tuesday through Saturday and dinner on Sunday. Closed Super Bowl Sunday, January 31st.

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Map showing location at 388 9th Street, Suite 268, near Franklin and Webster.  
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**FRIDAY, JAN. 29**  
Babe: Pig in the City 6:00 p.m.  
Psycho 7:00 p.m.  
(U) Gods & Monsters 7:00 p.m.  
(U) American History X 9:45 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, JAN. 30**  
Gods & Monsters 3:00 p.m.  
(U) Babe: Pig in the City 3:30 p.m.  
Babe: Pig in the City 6:00 p.m.  
Psycho 9:00 p.m.  
(U) Gods & Monsters 7:00 p.m.  
(U) American History X 9:45 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, JAN. 31**  
American History X 3:00 p.m.  
(U) Psycho 3:30 p.m.  
Babe: Pig in the City 6:00 p.m.  
Psycho 9:00 p.m.  
(U) Gods & Monsters 7:00 p.m.  
(U) American History X 9:45 p.m.  
**MONDAY, FEB. 1**  
Babe: Pig in the City (Baby Bridge) 6:00 p.m.  
Psycho 7:00 p.m.  
(U) Gods & Monsters 7:00 p.m.  
(U) American History X 9:45 p.m.  
**TUES.-THURS., FEB. 2-4**  
Babe: Pig in the City 6:00 p.m.  
Psycho 7:00 p.m.  
(U) Gods & Monsters 7:00 p.m.  
(U) American History X 9:45 p.m.  
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## SNAPSHOTS



**Mystery:** After last week's conundrum, I located all that El Cerrito History-

as I printed a mystery man. Emer Freethy, who then, I spoke to a man who actually was the secret. Manager Gene Freethy, who swears up and down, is not Mr. Freethy. He said we can hunt for the lines. "It's a family," he said, "but it means but

## Goings On About Town

Admission to Goings On About Town is received Thursdays prior to publication. List space available basis.

## Classes

**Sharing and Jitterbug:** 7 p.m. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. intermediate; 9 p.m. advanced classes beginning the 1st of the month; Finnish Folk Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley, 549-3591; \$40 for 12 weeks.

**Drawing:** Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. through March 17; Carol Krasner, Berkeley Art Center, 1900 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 843-8125.

**College:** May 24, "American Fiction: Present with Dr. Yehudit Krasner" located on the UC-Berkeley campus; 843-8125.

**Health and Community:** Drop in classes in dance, martial arts and more; 7 p.m. through 9 p.m. YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 843-8125.

**El Cerrito Classes:** Jan. 28, 4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Keyboard for Ages Eight and Over; bring an electric keyboard and learn the basics of keyboard, 30 residents.

**El Cerrito:** Jan. 30, all ages; Introduction to the El Cerrito, Judy Lane, El Cerrito, Judy Lane, 843-4971 for information.

## Community

**Day at Albany Library:** Jan. 28, 4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. "Tearing Scotts" provided; Albany Library, 745-1499.

**Berkeley Senior Center:** Jan. 28, 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Strong Women and Heroes of American Literature" Helen Wheeler, 843-8125; drawing and painting, 843-8125.

**Classical piano concert:** Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. "Mostly Popular Music" John Holman, 843-8125.

**February birth:** Berkeley High jazz band, 843-8125; 644-6107 for information.

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Our "Season Program" offers selected tennis activities for two weeks. Fees vary depending on the program.

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lives there."

"How do you know?" asked her astonished aunt.

"I saw him once," said Laura, who has been passing by Mr. Shadi's house to see the Christmas displays since she was 2. "God is very old!"

Speaking of mysteries (and historical societies), the Berkeley Historical Society is scratching its collective head over the bronze plaque in the sidewalk at the corner of Cedar and Shattuck, right in front of Sweet Temptations.

The plaque reads, "In Memory of the Fallen Comrades of the First Marine Division at Cape Gloucester, 1943."

Try as they might, no one can figure out when the plaque was put there or who did it.

This is of more than just academic interest to the Society's president, Ken Cardwell, who fought at Cape Gloucester himself.

(He was a P-40 fighter pilot, flying a P-40). If you have any tips about this plaque, please let me know and I'll pass them along to him.

By the way, did you know that University Drive, the road

on the Cal campus from the West Circle to the East Gate, used to have the politically incorrect name of Axis Drive? "That was changed when Germany and Italy began their political conquests," says Cardwell.

While we're on the subject of Cal, I was moved to do a little historical research of my own. I went to Sproul Plaza, stationed myself beside the fountain known as Ludwig's Fountain, and asked the first 25 students I met, "Who was Ludwig?"

Alas, not one knew the answer, even though it was right there on a bronze plaque on the fountain itself: "Ludwig Von Schwarzenberg, Campus Canine. By order of the Board of Regents April 24, 1961. Dedicated June 13, 1968."

Ludwig was a Golden Retriever (some said he belonged to a Cal professor) who used to spend every day splashing and cavorting in the fountain. He was the friendliest dog you ever met — around humans, that is. But he would help any other dog who tried to trespass on Ludwig's domain. He guarded his beloved fountain so, uh, doggedly, the Regents finally named it after him.

I also asked the students if they'd ever heard of another celebrated campus canine named Pedro, and they struck out on that one, too — even though, ironically, it was final exam time.

When I was a student, back when ice covered most of the earth, everyone knew about Pedro. He was yet another dog who belonged to yet another Cal professor. According to legend, Pedro got lost one day, and the prof promised to cancel finals if he was found.

I have no idea if it worked or not. But for decades and decades afterwards, during every final exam period, you could always hear students all over campus frantically calling, "Here, Pedro!"

I find it sad that today's Cal students don't know about Ludwig or Pedro. But they probably don't know about Jackie Jensen or Joe Roth — or, for that matter, Mario Savio — either.

Finally, let me extend my greetings to you on the only holiday people seem to still care about: Super Bowl Sunday, when we all gather around the

tube, drink too much booze, and pretend to care passionately about overgrown pituitary cases smashing each other in the mouth for three hours.

If I sound jaded, it's because I am. I find the whole thing overblown and overhyped and pretentious beyond belief. (What's up with those Roman numerals, anyway?) And this deification of sports stars borders on the blasphemous.

Plus, it's almost always a lousy game. Last year was the exception; most Super Bowls are decided by the end of the first quarter. For the rest of the game, the only thing that keeps me awake is counting the number of times John Madden says "Doink!"

Besides, as Duane Thomas, the MVP of Super Bowl VI (which the Cowboys won, XXIV to VII) said, "If it's the Ultimate Game, how come they're playing another one next year?"

Martin Snapp's column appears every Thursday. His Mac is back, thanks to the wizardry of John Sawyer of CUS Systems. So e-mail him at catman@california.com or phone him at (510) 273-9039.



## AHS Theater Ensemble

The AHS Theater Ensemble presents the opera comedy "Lend Me a Tenor," by Ken Ludwig, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the AHS Little Theater. Tickets: \$5 for students, \$7 for adults. Details: 524-7601.

**"It's Later Than You Think: The Origins of Ancient Egypt's Calendars and their Modern Legacy,"** 7:30 p.m.; given by Dr. Ronald Wells, presented by the American Research Center in Egypt, Northern California Chapter, and UC-Berkeley's Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Department of Near Eastern Studies; U.C. campus, Kroeber Hall, Room 160; 527-9746; free, but donations accepted.

**"Sick and Tired — Applying for Benefits When You Are Too Sick to Work,"** 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; free legal workshop presented by the Women's Cancer Resource Center with attorney Katherine Jaramillo; 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 843-8125.

**"Family Archeology — No Shovel Needed,"** 11:15 a.m.; with Susan Austin, family researcher; Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave.; 848-3533 or 845-4725 for reservations and information; lecture and coffee; \$1, lunch \$10.75 or \$12.25.

**"The Upside and The Downside of the Year 2000,"** 7 p.m.; Tom Atlee, author of "Awakening: The Upside of Y2K," and Chris Clarke, editor of Earth Island Journal lead a discussion; Ecology Center Bookstore Series, 2530 San Pablo Ave.; 548-2330.

**"Longchenpa: Master of the Nyingma Lineage,"** 6 p.m.; Ralph McFall discusses the remarkable achievements of the 14th century Tibetan master; Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Place, Berkeley, 843-6812.

**"Build a Healthy Back workshop,"** 6:45 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.; gentle movements, breathing exercises and postural work to relieve pain and restore muscle balance to attain spinal alignment; bring mat and pillow to class; Albany Adult School, Albany High, room 54; 655 Keyroute; 559-6580; \$15, please preregister.

**"Art-On-Site,"** Wednesdays 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. through March 24; eight-week slide-lecture and field trip series; Berkeley, 843-8125.

See GOINGS on page A12

pre-service training starts Mid-November. Call Shay Black, 893-9230, ext. 510.

**The Edible Schoolyard,** an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

**English-In-Action** lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley. Call 843-9716.

**Women's Daytime Drop-in Center** in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

## Exhibits

**Ongoing BACA Members' Showcase;** Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m.; through Feb. 21; over 200 regional and national artists; 1275 Walnut St.; 644-6893.

**Remembering Ben Shahn:** Selections from the Stephen Lee Taller Collection; 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.; through Feb. 14; special exhibit, tour and conversation with Frances Pohl, professor of art history at Pomona College and Robert Conway, co-curator of the exhibit; Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley; 549-6950.

**Albany Arts Committee** celebrates the Foyer Gallery with a retrospective exhibit running through Feb. 22. The purpose is to highlight Albany Artists. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, call 524-9283.

## Lectures and workshops

Jan. 28

**"I WANT TO WORK OUT BUT ..."**

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✦ I HATE JOGGING!

✦ WHAT DO I DO WITH THE KIDS?

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Prince Rupert's Testosterone-a-Rama: OK, so Fox's compelling pre-game show leads off Super Bowl Sunday starting at, what, about 8 a.m.? A lot of beer will be sold and drunk. Then it's the big game itself (Super Bowl XXXV-chromosome) with, of course, more brewski and pickup-truck commercials, much more drinking, and the consumption of food-like substances. Then, after the game guys, how about ... a cartoon! (Football, beer, and cartoons - tough sale to a male audience.) Fox's new animated "Family Guy" debuts around 7 p.m. Then, another cartoon, "The Simpsons," featuring the voice of Fox owner Rupert Murdoch, a real man's man, the guy who put bare-breasted woman on Page 3 of his Sun newspaper every day. (Eat your heart out, Chronicle.) Then it's explosions, gunfire and a body count as Part I of "Tom Clancy's Netforce" erupts over at ABC Monday evening.

It's payback time for all those figure-skating shows on TV we've been forced to sit through, right, guys? God, is this a great country, or what? It all reminds me of what one comedian observed about all our Quik-Martins in California: "Where else in the world can you gas up, get chips and beer, stick up the joint, get drunk and be back in bed sleeping it off, all within 30 minutes?"

My favorite definition of macho: A guy who jogs home after his vasectomy.

"The Family Guy" isn't bad. I've been hearing about this show for months, and it does have its moments and takes chances, like having a giant Kool-Aid pitcher burst through a wall unexpectedly. And "Netforce" is so stupid I, um, watched the whole four hours (without commercials, though). I felt like burping afterwards. Part 2, by the way, won't air until Thursday of next week - that's, ahem, the first night of February ratings sweeps. Wait 'til you see Judge Reinhold as the thinly disguised Bill Gates. I'm supposed to tell you not to watch it.

By the way, that isn't a sneaky Murdoch plug for Sunday's game in the hit movie "Shakespeare in Love," is it? You know, in the very last scene. The lovely Gwyneth Paltrow walks alone along a beach. The credits roll, and what's the first name you see? "Directed by John Madden."

**MEDIA NOTES:** Speaking of Murdoch-style journalism, I've heard the following story from enough people who work at the station that I'm inclined to believe it. In fact, it's become part of

## Mann On Media



By Bill Mann

the lore at the network affiliate where this manager is widely disliked by his staff. A top news exec at one of our big local TV stations was working in another city the day of the Oklahoma City bombing. The next day, this genius rented a Ryder truck and had it parked next to the federal building there - so he could get a reaction story out of this stunt. Pretty creative, huh? Can you guess which station? E-mail me, and I'll tell you if you're right... So, was anyone out there sitting up front at the Stones' concert in Oakland this week? Is it true that when people throw joints on stage at their concerts these days, they're usually hip replacements? Again, just wondering... More male sports: If **Monica Lewinsky** is called to testify before the Senate, I predict the press will refer to her as the "witness." You read it here first... I like KGO radio talker **Ronn Owens'** "Two-Bills" construct: There's the Bill Clinton you admire, and the other, the one you detest. Owens: "Anyone who says they love everything Clinton does is nuts, and so are those who say they hate everything he does." ...I am now a **Sean Penn** fan after hearing the actor's surprisingly candid comments on "60 Minutes" about Murdoch's "blood money," how he exploits actors and celebs. Penn also had an incisive line about "the assault of corporate America on creative America." It does seem that to the bottom-liners, neither quality nor art means much any more. Look at the decline in standards in the workplace everywhere, where good work is both unappreciated and devalued. Penn had a funny line about the upcoming Oscars: "If you attend the Academy Awards," he said with a sly grin, "you're an extra on a TV show."

The title of Sunday's Super Bowl-themed "Simpsons," by the way, is "Sunday, Cruddy Sunday." In it, Homer swipes Chairman Murdoch's luxury skybox. D-oh! ...Among the diverse characters who pop in and out of "The Family Guy": Bill Clinton, God, Aunt Jemima, Ed McMahon, and (Oakland's own) Tom Hanks.... Showbiz is a cold biz. Very cold. After Mary Tyler Moore's proposed new series was cancelled by ABC, a Hollywood writer/director I know e-mailed me a hilarious (if definitely un-

## New York Times Magazine Puzzle

### CROSS WORD PUZZLE

BY ROBERT MALINOW / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                | <b>DOWN</b>                                      |
| 1 Jumble                                     | 117 Gossipy Barrett                              |
| 5 Gut feeling?                               | 119 Forest female                                |
| 10 Put one past?                             | 120 Subject of strike talks                      |
| 14 70's-80's Mercury                         | 121 Write something, even if not the final draft |
| 19 — Rio                                     | 124 Arrowsmith's wife                            |
| 20 Cole Porter title city                    | 125 Collectible illustrator                      |
| 21 Rumble                                    | 126 "Who can that be?" response                  |
| 22 Ethical Culture Society founder           | 127 Fuss   |
| 23 Certain corner square                     | 128 Cedric — of "Little Lord Fauntleroy"         |
| 26 Nored 60's radical                        | 129 Those caballeros                             |
| 27 First name in horror                      | 130 "The Entry of Christ into Brussels" artist   |
| 28 Stopping points                           | 131 Hospital work                                |
| 29 "Darn —!"                                 | <b>DOWN</b>                                      |
| 30 Tree that sprouts roots from its branches | 1 Nickname for a good kisser                     |
| 31 Actress                                   | 2 NATO, e.g.                                     |
| 33 "Popeye" creator                          | 3 Roof, in a way                                 |
| 35 Brit. honor                               | 4 Proceed on one leg                             |
| 37 — Accords (1998 peace agreement)          | 5 Flips  |
| 38 Nabors role                               | 6 Court material                                 |
| 39 Stock holder?                             | 7 Military danger                                |
| 41 Staple Le Carre feature                   | 8 Literary                                       |
| 45 Sense-ability                             | 9 De further archaeological work                 |
| 47 Dun                                       | 10 Jockey who won 17 Triple Crown races          |
| 49 — borrower                                | 11 Hip   |
|  | 12 Ring locale                                   |
|  | 13 Dr. of rap                                    |
|  | 14 Castro calls it home                          |
|  | 15 Gulf port                                     |
|  | 16 Not speak seriously                           |
|  | 17 Communications satellites                     |
|  | 18 Actress Papas and others                      |
|  | 24 Year in the apostle Paul's travels            |
|  | 25 Native village, in South Africa               |
|  | 30 Retro car                                     |
|  | 32 Range order                                   |
|  | 34 Apodes member                                 |
|  | 36 Radar sighting                                |
|  | 40 Partner-in-crime                              |
|  | 42 Frees   |
|  | 43 Cronies                                       |
|  | 44 Kidney enzyme                                 |
|  | 46 Italian cabbage                               |
|  | 48 Photo —                                       |
|  | 51 Flog  |
|  | 53 "Peace be with you" and others                |
|  | 54 Sounds from the masseur's room                |
|  | 56 Wandening                                     |
|  | 57 Like some pieces                              |
|  | 58 Rugby formations                              |
|  | 59 Alluring                                      |
|  | 60 Back  |
|  | 62 Union opposer                                 |
|  | 66 Notorious                                     |
|  | 68 30's-40's criminal                            |
|  | 70 It comes in black and white                   |
|  | 71 Bordeaux output                               |
|  | 72 Harrah's locale                               |
|  | 73 Turner and others                             |
|  | 76 Oral traditions                               |
|  | 77 TV's Gray and Moran                           |
|  | 80 Réunion and others                            |
|  | 81 Daredevil                                     |
|  | 83 Attacks                                       |
|  | 85 Blab  |
|  | 86 Bob Cousy's alma mater                        |
|  | 88 "Phooey!"                                     |
|  | 92 Garment workers                               |
|  | 94 It's a wrap                                   |
|  | 96 1960 dance biography                          |
|  | 97 Authorize                                     |
|  | 98 1970's policy                                 |
|  | 99 Actress Lombard                               |
|  | 100 High provider                                |
|  | 101 Jalopies                                     |
|  | 102 The "H" in Hanukkah                          |
|  | 104 Toot   |
|  | 109 Feudal lord                                  |
|  | 111 Emerald Point — of 80's TV                   |
|  | 113 Shrinkage                                    |
|  | 114 Shrinkage                                    |
|  | 116 Comes out                                    |
|  | 118 Hydros                                       |
|  | 121 Cousin of                                    |
|  | 122 S. skyline                                   |
|  | 123 Milpita's award                              |

PC and sexist line explaining why: "MTM's face," he wrote, "has been lifted more times than a toilet seat in a coed dorm." ... What the East Bay could arguably use to make commuting a bit easier is a billboard campaign like the one currently in Los Angeles. It's sponsored by a group called Poets Anonymous. Sample billboard along one main thoroughfare: "You are too splendid for this city street." - I didn't get the female poet's name who wrote that, but I wish I had... Radio doc **Dean Edell** is sharp, but he missed the obvious line when discussing this week's first trans-

plant of a human hand. "What's a hand cost?" he wondered aloud? Correct answer: An arm and a leg... Meanwhile, that wacky gal who follows Edell's show on KGO, Internet nudie **Dr. Laura Schlessinger**, now opens shows with anti-abortion pep talks. Commenting this week on a proposal to make information on abortions available to high schoolers, the advice maven cooed, "How charming, 13-year-olds will now get information on how to get their babies sucked into a sink." How charming, indeed. Is it any surprise she doesn't speak in the Bay Area?

Meanwhile, I asked the man who put the popular Schlessinger on the air three hours a day, KGO general manager **Mickey Luckoff**, about Dr. Laura's ratings the other day at breakfast. Luckoff grabbed them from his briefcase. Alas, they're good. I then asked Luckoff about sister station KSFQ's embarrassment of an afternoon drive personality **Michael Weiner Savage**, who's just gotten an extra hour of air time at 7 p.m. because of solid ratings. Isn't Luckoff concerned that some of the inflammatory things Savage routinely

says on the air (e.g., "All kids are child molesters") will get back to his bosses at the corporate? "Don't worry," Luckoff evened. "Everything's back to Disney." The no-nonsense radio exec, who newstalk station KGO has notched its 82nd straight ratings win over 20 years - a record unmatched anywhere in the country - did allow, however, that "we've had to rap his knuckles a few times," referring to The Savage Weiner... Find this funny oxymoron mailed by a Montclair reader: [www.amish.com](http://www.amish.com)

## Goings

Continued from A11

keley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St.; 525-2464.  
**Turning Point Career Center**  
Jan. 28, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.; "Jobs that Make a Difference in Cultural Institutions"; \$10; 6-7 p.m.; "Assessment for Career Changers - Skill Web Card Deck"; \$15.

WVCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; 845-6370.

### Literary Events

Jan. 28  
"Strong Women - Writers and Heroes of American Literature"; 1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. every Thursday; free course in the Berkeley Adult

School Older Adults Program; Helen Ripper Wheeler, instructor; North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; 549-2970 after 9 a.m.

**Rise and Fall of the Roman Poets** with James Keller, a ten week series examining the world of ancient Rome through the words of its great poets. Every Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. through Feb. 3. Suggested donation of \$2.50 for residents, \$3 for non residents. "The Open House Senior Center, 6500 Stockton Ave. Call 215-4340.

### Music/Dance

Ongoing  
**Friday Night Folk Dancing**; 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary

for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

### Outdoors

"Reaching for the Top - Annapurna and Beyond"; 7 p.m.; Arlene Blum on the 20th anniversary of her ascent up Nepal's Annapurna with a team of 13 women; REI, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley; 527-4140.

Ongoing  
**UC-Berkeley Botanical Garden**; looking for volunteers, training begins in January. Call Nancy Swearingen,

643-1924, for an application and information. 200 Centennial Dr.,keley.

### Religion

Jan. 31  
Sycamore Congregational Church; 9:45 a.m.; "We're God," a sermon with liturgy; Sakaue; 1111 Navelier St., E. rito; 525-0727

### Theater, Dance & Film

Ongoing  
"To Kill a Mockingbird"; Fridays and Saturdays through 20, one Thursday performance; 18: Actors Ensemble of Berkeley season, directed by John Dahler; 5620 for reservations. \$9

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# OPINION EDITORIAL



## The Journal

A Publication of Hills Newspapers, Inc.

Scott Little  
Publisher

Chris Treadway  
Editor

"...were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."  
— Thomas Jefferson, 1787



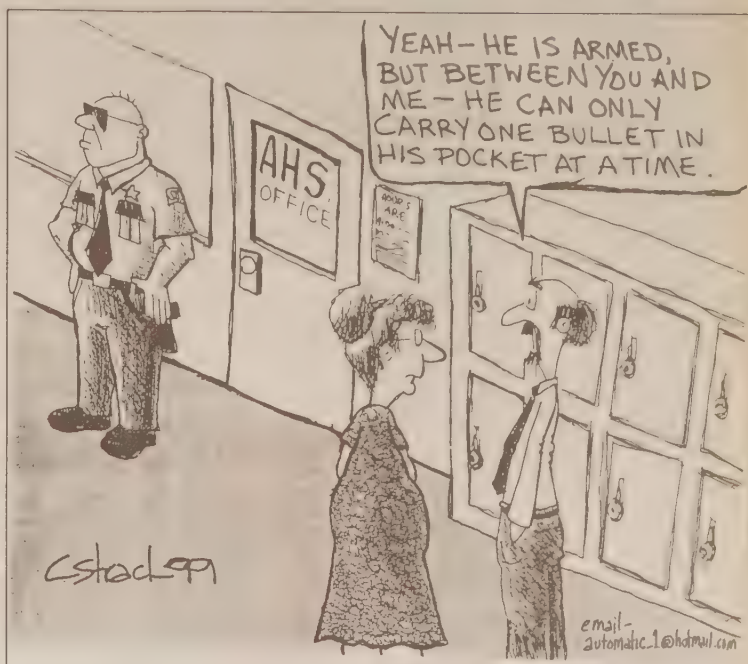
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### To Our Readers

The Journal apologizes for the editorial cartoon on last week's opinion page dealing with the hiring of a superintendent for the West Contra Costa School District. The issue is a sensitive

topic in the district with substantive arguments on each side, but the cartoon dealt with it in an insensitive and simplified manner. After discussing the matter with the editor and managing editor of The Journal, the

cartoonist also understood that the depiction was not appropriate. A replacement cartoon was drawn and placed on the page, but in the production process the original cartoon was published in last week's paper.



### Letters to the Editor

#### More Plaza Haiku...

Plans?  
with parking,  
theaters galore.  
Goshawks no more!

Monica Hazlewood

#### Small known to us as the Plaza...

A haiku?  
would fail with a low-ku  
ending slow-ku!

haikus deserve to be  
dumb...boring...irrelevant.  
most we can expect is a  
correct 5-7-5 syllable

someone could do better with

Peter Loubal  
El Cerrito

#### Need to take control of our city

citizens of El Cerrito:  
a long time resident of  
El Cerrito. My wife  
here, we raised our  
and we still live in  
where my wife Angie  
I have spent the last  
my city and its future. At  
I am exhausted and  
just as soon sell the  
and move to another  
city. The problem is my  
Angie. She would never  
El Cerrito. Thus I must  
to try to get some  
in El Cerrito.

current problem that  
me is the fate of the El  
Plaza. While the owners  
Redevelopment Agency  
to battle, the mer-  
at the Plaza and the  
of this community  
Without a redeveloped  
have a decrease in tax  
our city services

many people in El  
know that we had a  
to have a Wal Mart at  
over three years ago.

#### The Redevelopment

Agency did not ask the people at that time if they wanted a Wal Mart but decided to listen to a very few "Sustainable El Cerritans". A Wal Mart would have drawn people from all over the area and would have contributed more than \$2 million in sales tax revenue during this time.

Currently we have a City Council that wants another assessment for services to our citizens. Instead of clearing the way for the owners of the Plaza to create a tax base the current City Council continues to haggle over "creeks", "housing", "landscaping" and "parking."

This same council voted to give Stewart \$1.5 million of redevelopment money for Del Norte. They then let Rubicon buy the motel — tax free — losing \$15,000 to \$25,000 for city services.

There was some hope when our new council members Larry Damon, Gina Brusatori and Mark Friedman entered the political arena, however, the decisions being made are still based on the loud voices of a minority of citizens.

No one on this council seems to be able to say, "Let the owners of the El Cerrito Plaza develop the Plaza." There is talk that the owners were always able to go forward with their plan but this is "political talk." How can the current owners let a plan through the planning commission when it is "stacked" with members who have made up their minds and have an agenda — their idea of an urban village?

Two of our council members voted for a utility tax on residents and businesses. These same council members also voted to keep the transfer tax

Letters to The Journal  
P.O. Box 1624  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

on the sale of homes — a transfer tax that was judged illegal by the California Supreme Court. Now they want to add an assessment for services in our city. But can we trust these council members to use this money for the good of our community? Can these council members who allow the Plaza to continue downhill be trusted with the welfare of our community?

It is important that the citizens of El Cerrito become involved. The issues as to whether to mount an assessment against citizens or to take the transfer tax away from the city are issues that impact us all. If we stay quiet or apathetic we give power to a very few citizens in this community. Creeks, parks, landscaping etc, are wonderful concepts but first we need basics — a redeveloped Plaza and a tax base before we can engage in these concepts. Citizens of El Cerrito, we need to take control of our city!

Bob Winslow  
El Cerrito

#### An enlightened, realistic choice

##### Editor:

As a parent of an Albany High student, I believe that the most reliable and important basis of opinion concerning the policeman on campus are the students themselves, not a parent who neither attends nor experiences harassment on a daily basis.

Therefore, as I listen to my child and others, I believe that the officer would serve as a deterrent to the type of behavior that frequently occurs at

AHS and is not the responsibility of teachers and administrators to deal with, even if they could. This would be the enlightened and realistic choice, not a decision lost in reverie.

Name withheld by request

#### Gun tax measure for youth programs

##### Editor:

I am sponsoring a ballot measure for the City of El Cerrito that will place a modest tax on the sale of guns and ammunition from stores in El Cerrito.

The proceeds of this tax will be used to fund the continued presence of police in the schools, gun safety programs, and El Cerrito After-School Youth Programs for Middle and High School Kids.

A number of cities in the East Bay already have variation of this kind of tax. The purpose is to place on those who

sell, buy, and use guns a slight burden for the society. Even guns that are used for legitimate noncriminal purposes create costs. More people are injured using a legitimate weapon than from criminal use. We have too many stories of young children finding a parents' or relatives' gun in the house.

Unbeknownst to the child the gun is loaded. Often the result is the death of playmate when the child fires the gun in play not realizing that it is loaded and what it can do.

We also have to constantly deal with the use of guns in and around schools.

Over the past 30 years youth crime with guns has risen. Recent studies have shown that more often than not, these guns were purchased legitimately. They were not stolen as the NRA likes to claim.

We need to find ways to place on the gun industry the costs that guns create in our society. This is no different from levying fees and taxes on

many other products or services that create social costs.

We have at least two states that sell guns and ammunition so the need for the tax in our city is great.

Voters will get the chance to decide whether they want this tax. The city will place the tax on the ballot for approval. We will discuss this issue at our Feb. 1, city council meeting.

I urge residents who are concerned about the use and effects of guns in our community to come to the meeting and to join with me and council member Mark Friedman in supporting this effort to deal in a constructive and responsible way with gun ownership and use.

Finally, for all of those members of the NRA out there. I own a gun I have voluntarily registered it with the police department. Not all of us who own and use guns support the NRA or believe in its wacky notions about the second amendment.

Norman LaForce  
El Cerrito

### Viewpoint

#### Focus on technology in education: Glorifying the trivial

Our intent of producing "computer literate" children has led to a distraction of resources both human and monetary in our public schools. As an electronic engineer designing computer hardware for 20 years, I find computers to be a means not an end.

A word processor is a great tool to aid in the act of writing but it's the ideas and words behind the fonts that I'm more interested in. A spread sheet automates calculations and presents a formatted output but it's the ability to comprehend, calculate, manipulate numbers that is important in early education — I'd like my child to first use math without necessitating a calculator or a computer. An engineer today needs to enter his/her design with schematic capture or graphic entry tools but how does this help with the invention, the idea, the imagination, the

architecture that results in the design entry?

Too much focus on technology, especially in early school years seems to me to be a distraction from core competencies. Children ARE really smart, they can learn the tools when they need them — it's the adults that are fearful of technology. It's easy to teach how to click, drag and drop, and it's easy to be lured with captivating graphics but what is the substance behind the mirror and what do computers by themselves produce? Our focus should be on how to think, how to innovate, stimulate new ideas, challenge the next generation to communicate these thoughts and ideas in different ways.

A focus on core competencies must be the start. Returning art to our schools is the next step. Art brings out the natural creativity in children, stimu-

lates their imagination, promotes non-verbal communication, provides the freedom to explore one's ideas. Imagination and the ability to communicate imagination through reading and writing, drawing and painting, sculpting and performing can be nurtured through art and literacy. Innovation, new ideas, new approaches and communication should be our aims and goals for inspiring and educating the next generation.

Computers should be used as a tool to speed up the mundane process of entering, editing, formatting, manipulating, it should not be our focus. Our children can and will learn the tools, more easily than we do, as and when they are needed. We have glorified the trivial and trivialized what we should be focusing on.

Andy Norton  
and@nortonengineering.com

## Friends of Baxter Creek look ahead to coming year

evenings of your choice this spring. This is a great opportunity for individuals, families with kids, and teachers with students to help protect the creek and the creatures that live in it!

Since our last update, Berkeley landscape architect and creek-restoration expert Gary Mason drew up several designs for the FOBC, integrating the creek and grocery store into an innovative retail plan for the area. We hope to use these designs to work with the cities of Richmond and El Cerrito to restore the creek to its natural state, surround it with a small

community park, encourage pedestrian-friendly businesses to locate there, and extend the Ohlone Greenway/bike trail along the creek to connect with the San Francisco Bay Trail in west Richmond. These designs will be presented to residents, city officials, and potential developers in an informational booklet featuring drawings of native plants and animals by a local Girl Scout troop.

In November, we met with Richmond Mayor Rosemary Corbin to express our dismay that (1) Richmond has decided to route the Ohlone Greenway around, rather than through, the

creek site south of Angelo's Delicatessen on the west side of San Pablo Ave; (2) Honda of El Cerrito has been allowed to fence off with barbed wire what was formerly an open field, preventing pedestrian access along the creek; and (3) Harbor Plastics has been allowed to expand its facility perilously close to the creek without contributing any funds for creek restoration. Although Mayor Corbin repeatedly expressed her interest in restoring the creek, we did not receive satisfactory answers to our questions. We'll be working with the Rails to Trails Conservancy during the coming year to

pursue these issues with the city. Please let us know if you would like to become more involved in this effort.

Hearty thanks go out to FOBC members Jim Williams, for watering and maintaining the wildflowers we planted near the Ohlone Greenway/Baxter Creek sign at Key Boulevard and Conlon Avenue, and Gil Patchett, for his wonderful wildflower plantings near the creek and along the Greenway. We also wish to thank Jan Dunlop and her enthusiastic Brownie (now Girl Scout) troop for hand-painting the stunning Baxter Creek sign and mural at

the mouth of the Baxter Creek storm drain and for their ongoing efforts to create illustrations for our Richmond/El Cerrito Gateway design booklet.

Thanks to your continued support, FOBC is now over 500 members strong! We'll need even more new members, however, to dissuade Albertson's from expanding on top of the creek when it converts the Lucky Market at San Pablo and MacDonald avenues into an Albertson's this year. Please ask your friends and neighbors to place their names on the FOBC mailing list by calling 236-5351 or 237-7968.

Lisa Viani and  
Maryann Aberg  
(Co Founders, FOBC)



## Perka

Continued from front page charts with headings such as "competitive demographics" and "BART ridership" and "hidden opportunity for retailers — especially Gottschalks."

Perka includes two pages of "citizen response" where people from El Cerrito and surrounding cities plead for a nice place to shop at the Plaza.

Perka was in Fresno to observe a December meeting between Dorian Bilak and Mehmet Noyan of the El Cerrito Plaza Co., and Joe Levy and James Famalette of Gottschalks.

She said Famalette, Gottschalks' president and chief operating officer, told her recently that "this was the strangest situation — the strangest offer that he's ever gotten from a property

owner."

Perka said that usually "the department store gets the property (for less than market rate) and they build the store," and own it. Another common scenario, Perka said, is that the property owner charges the department store a lease "and then the property owner builds the store."

But Perka said that in the case of the Plaza, "Bilak wants rent on his property — and Gottschalks to build a store."

So, Perka said, "he wants rent and he wants them to build the store," which, reportedly, is not the usual situation. She said that Famalette "said he's never run into a situation like that."

Even before she took on the task of enticing a department store to the Plaza, Perka knew something about the business. She worked for Emporium for 10

year, including one year as the assistant store manager in El Cerrito and then as the buyer for the chain's children's wear department.

Perka said a company the size of Gottschalks would be able to judge the "micro" shopping climates of the area. "I just think that Gottschalks would be a good mix here," she explained.

Perka has a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the College of William and Mary in Virginia and some of her own oil paintings and sculptures decorate her home.

On an easel in the dining room is her reproduction of Monet's "The Bridge at Argenteuil," which appears to be painted with a talented hand. Jerry, her husband of almost nine years, is a product designer for a Marin County software company.

The couple has no children, but

Perka notes happily that she has eight nieces and nephews.

She became involved in city politics about four years ago during the El Cerrito neighbor-to-neighbor effort. Perka said she had always been concerned about local events, but before that she did not have the "flexibility and the time" to get involved.

Some have mentioned Perka as a future candidate for City Council. Asked about it, she said the possibility has crossed her mind and she has not ruled it out.

Asked what she likes about El Cerrito she said "the people," the open space and the location. "I like its location — its close proximity to almost anything that I want — except shopping," she said. "I enjoy the small-town flavor of El Cerrito," she added.

After spending time in San Francisco, she appreciates the

"not so hectic" feel of home.

Perhaps to preserve this less hectic environment, Perka became a member of the General Plan update Process Team.

The Process Team was given the charge of being "watchdogs" of the overall update process and Perka has been critical of the effort for some time. Earlier this month, after months of work on the new General Plan that included public workshops, Process Team meetings and study of alternative visions of a future El Cerrito, the City Council decided to stick with the old General Plan, with some modifications. Perka seems less than impressed.

"I think the city spent an awful lot of money on a consultant — and to come up with a revision of the General Plan as being a modification of the existing one — I feel slightly used," she said.

The basic amount paid for the professional General Plan consultants was \$200,000, she said "it was very interesting to be told by the consultants beginning that 'we had an outdated General Plan that in genuine need of revising, etc., etcetera.'"

Now, she said, the consultants are "telling us that we had a good General Plan — the one we have existing." Perka burst out laughing and wondered how a General Plan that eight months ago was "awful" could now be "a good one." She did say the plan needs updating "to take in to the new millennium." She said that the Process Team's new General Plan update experience and I think that she spent an awful lot of money to find out what it already knew.

## Gun Room

Continued from front page could say "make my day."

A one-time UC Berkeley history student, Weaver wears a holstered gun while in the shop, explaining "this is the kind of business where people walk in with guns all the time." About four years ago, two thieves entered the store just after it opened in the early morning with sacks and guns and bad intentions. Weaver didn't want to talk about the particulars of what happened, but he did say "I upset their plans." The would-be thieves were arrested and no one was killed. "I'm glad about that," he said and explained that he now doesn't open the shop until 11 a.m. when it seems safer.

Weaver has six licenses — federal, state and local — allowing him to sell and trade firearms in El Cerrito.

Around 4 p.m. on a Saturday, more than a half-dozen regulars are in the gun shop. One is trying on a gun belt while another is giving a one-minute review of the movie "The Thin Red Line." Music from the New York Metropoli-

tan Opera is playing on the radio.

In just, one regular visitor says that Weaver likes opera — "but only Wagner." There is an argument about whether or not the cartoon characters Rocky and Bullwinkle both have the middle initial "J" in their names. The age of actor Robert Stack is debated and somebody consults a map and dreams about a motorcycle road trip. Some customers come and go — some buying bullets for target practice — others just looking.

There's a lot of gun stuff to look at in the gun room. You can buy a nickel plated Colt revolver for \$1,574 or a pump-action shotgun for under \$300. There are several old fashion muzzle-loaders and things needed to shoot them.

You can get a Glock semi-automatic Model 22 pistol for \$524 or an old Japanese "type 99 bolt action" rifle for \$92.67. There are shelves of various kinds of bullets, glass cases with pistols, racks with rifles and displays of holsters, gun belts and shooting accessories. There are boxes and bags of spent shells awaiting recycling, and books with titles like "Handbook for Shooters and

Reloaders" (Volume I and II), "European Land Battles" by Col. Trevor Nevitt Dupuy and the informational "How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With."

There are small barrels filled with wooden gun stocks and a box of leather gun accessories. You can buy a "magazine release with oversize button" or an "extra power pin return spring for 1911 style autos."

You can get targets for 30 cents each, a primer flask, resizing oil or Hercules-brand sporting powder. On the wall there are four large signs with warnings about gun safety and the legal responsibility of adults to keep loaded guns out of the possession of children.

There are also several pictures of John Wayne, some Civil War and old west prints and a flier encouraging people to join the American Civil War Association.

"It's an institution — this place goes way back," said 55-year-old Brett Bacher who lives in the Richmond Annex. Bacher said the gun room has always been a place where people can gather to tell "war stories" and "swap lies." He said he first visited the Old West

Gun Room as a boy with his father in "1956 or 57." The store was then located on San Pablo Avenue in northern El Cerrito. According to Weaver and Bacher, the building currently housing the gun room was built in the late 1940's and was either an antique or a junk shop, depending on your point of view.

In 1970, Dave Cumberland, the then-owner of the gun room moved into the current building. The building needed quite a lot of work and local people, including Bacher, donated their labor to refurbish the building for their friend Cumberland. A brass plaque outside the building thanks the people who donated their "elbow grease" to remodel the building.

Some people are leery to talk to a reporter about the gun room. One El Cerrito man only gives his first name because he doesn't want his neighbors to think he's some kind of "gun kook." Another man, David Lee of San Francisco, is a ten-year regular at the shop and says "we're not the Elmer Fudds that most people think we are." Lee, who is an "international-

styles" shooting coach at the University of San Francisco, said that that doctors and lawyers and teachers and engineers frequent the gun room. Lee said that gun safety is "everybody's responsibility" and added that if you own a gun you "have responsibility" and should know how to use it properly. "If you don't — you should either get rid of it or go out and learn," he said.

Annemarie Brown, the attractive young woman who met her husband at the shop, said the looks of a person won't tell you if that person is a gun enthusiast or not. "If you would have seen me — would you have said 'she looks like a shooter'?" she asked.

Weaver, who lives in Berkeley, said he usually doesn't advertise to people that he owns a gun shop. He said people have come to the shop to scream at him and call him "killer" and other names. "People who hate me and are so opposed to what I do — are perfectly willing to come up and yell at me," he said. "There's nothing you can say to somebody like that," Weaver explained.

He said he does not feel selling

guns is immoral — anymore. Freedom of the press is important, Weaver says he does agree to a waiting period for gun purchases but doubts the effectiveness of the federal law mandating ground checks for gun buyers.

He said that two of about 400 people who tried to buy a gun in his shop last year failed. One was because his brother was using his name. "When Weaver said that over the years he has 'discouraged' gun buyers from buying a gun."

Because of their looks or manner?, he was asked. "Because the sum total of their being right and should not have a gun," Weaver explained.

He said there have been times when he has "absolutely no people, I'm not going to sell a gun." Other times, he said he has told people that they have to go to the police to "start the paperwork" and has got them out of the shop that way. "I've been in this now for 22 years," he said and he has dealt with the situation.

## Vote

Continued from front page

omended? Is it acceptable to use tax increment money for redevelopment? Should El Cerrito have a Redevelopment Agency at all? These were given as possible questions.

Brusatori's speech received loud applause from the nearly 40

people from the business community who attended the dinner.

"Blocking our transition to economic development is a political logjam," Brusatori asserted.

"There are some members of the Committee of the Whole and in the community at large who do not believe in the redevelopment process," she explained.

She said that after agency finances are clarified and after its

decision-making processes are improved and after "project-based accounting" is adopted some people may then change their mind about redevelopment.

"But there are others who will not waiver in their belief because they are opposed to taking increased property tax dollars and using them for redevelopment."

Brusatori said that as the examination moves from Redevel-

opment Agency finances to city finances, people "should try to focus on the larger policy issues and resist the temptation to study how every dollar is spent."

She said every resident "has the absolute right" to study and comment on city finances, but she said "we have many, many important policy issues to resolve. Let's spend our time on these."

The mayor also urged that the

chamber, the city and members of the public, form a "not-for-profit corporation" to jointly administer an economic development program first proposed last year by Councilman Mark Friedman.

"The charter of this organization would be to retain and improve existing businesses and, where indicated, attract new businesses," Brusatori said.

"I believe we have done enough

big-box, block-long redevelopment projects," she said to applause.

But Brusatori's overall message seemed to be that the people of El Cerrito need to get together for the good of all.

"We need to individually collectively put aside our grievances and slights concerning the city and pull together to make this a better community," she told the audience.

## Campus

Continued from front page

ply for a grant to establish COPS on Campus came from district staff and not from the police.

Murdo pointed to two recent reports of adult gang members entering the campus at AHS in an effort to recruit new members as an argument in favor of the grant proposal. He said the presence of a policeman would discourage such activity and provide a chance for young people to get to know the police and learn about the law and law enforcement issues.

Student board members — who abstained on the final vote to move forward on the grant application — also raised concerns about the activities of police on campus, though they warmly embraced the individual Murdo suggested as

the candidate for that position.

They questioned what an armed officer would do if faced with the kind of "isolated incidents" that have occurred on campus, including a drive-by shooting last year where someone thought to be from out of town fired a .22 caliber bullet into a wall of the now-demolished building.

Referring to the APD's reputation for rapid response time (unofficial reports suggest police usually respond to emergency calls within two minutes) Meister said if an officer at AHS was across campus during such an incident, it could take him two minutes to reach the scene of the crime.

Murdo said the presence of an officer might have prevented that incident, adding that an officer would have a direct line to both the Albany and El Cerrito police, an advantage not shared by mem-

bers of the administration or teachers.

Emphasizing that he is "perfectly willing to work with the student government," on issues, Murdo also offered to collaborate with them while developing the responsibilities of the proposed campus officer.

Murdo later displayed a black cotton shirt used by officers on bike patrol and suggested such an outfit might make the presence of an officer on campus "more palatable."

He said an officer stationed on campus could also carry his weapon in a "canvas-type holster," which would have "a much softer look."

Resident Jewel Okawuchi suggested the main purpose of a school resources officer would be education and building bridges between the police and young people.

Jack Rosano sounded a similar theme, adding that work done by the Albany Police Activities League demonstrated the kind of ties that can be developed between young people and the police. Rosano also pointed to advantages to be gained by students who could learn about the law from police they knew on a personal basis.

And speaker after speaker cited Officer Ron Bennett as an example of the kind of relationships that can be established between teens and the police.

Marsha Skinner said she received a very large number of phone calls concerning the issue of an officer on campus. She said many questions need to be answered concerning the proposal, including financial ones since the amount of money an officer on campus would receive each year "could pay for two additional school classes."

Relaying conversations she had with teachers and staff at the high school, Skinner said some were under the impression they would have a walkie talkie and could call a policeman into their classroom if there were any disturbances — something she said would not be an option.

Joan Larson, of the AHS Site Council, said last year students, teachers and parents did a "needs assessment" at the high school including a survey about campus safety. Roughly two-thirds of those questioned felt the school was safe, she said, while another quarter felt safety needed to be improved. Others expressed no opinion.

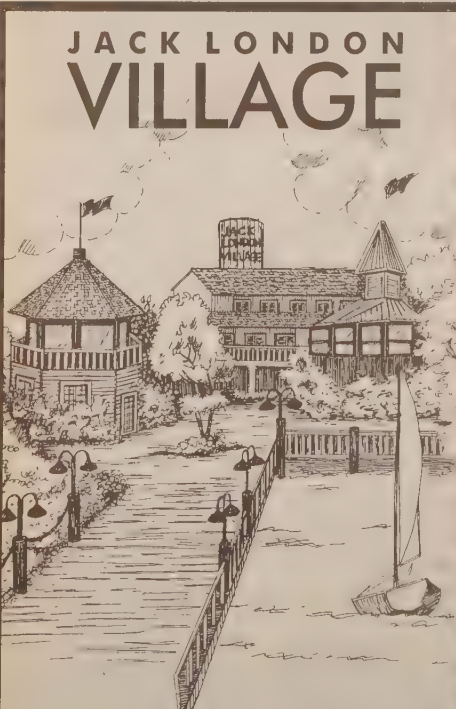
"You should have known about this report before," Larson said, adding the main findings of the site council were that AHS needs more activities for students, more assemblies, more arts and music

classes and more money for science and math. Larson questioned where the funding would come from. The COPS on Campus program which Hudson estimated cost more than \$18,000 a year.

Vice Mayor Jon Ely expressed support for the grant proposal while suggesting that a town type forum should be held.

David Farrell, also a member of the board, said he and the community must determine "what is needed, what for Albany and what's right for Albany High School."

move ahead and decide, we need (the officer) and here's a job description. "There's a lot of concern this raises," Farrell continued. "We have a dangerous environment at the high school? There's concern out there because we feel they have been mistreated or don't know what's going on."



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## Berkeley girls pound Amador

By Mike McGreehan

Accounts, Berkeley girls basketball team's outstanding game in the past two World Cups.

There, however, who beg to differ, let's say any further, let's say the scene.

pour into the Berkeley Yellowjackets' pre-game their toughest test in an East Bay Athletic League game. Their opponent is Amador Valley, a team entering the undefeated not only in the state but against all oppo-

the, though, is no longer. Spurred by their fans and their own spirit, the Jackets trounce Amador Valley 71-48.

Impressive, huh? Well, anyone was satisfied.

Nakamura coach Gene Nakamura, told his players after the game that they were only at 75 percent. At the math here. At present, Berkeley would have scored 95 points and given Amador Valley a 23-point performance.

turnovers," said Nakamura, "what his team has done better. We had a drop-off in that fourth quarter. We were playing every-thing we got a little lax."

the record, Berkeley led the half, 54-24 by the third quarter and 60-24 in the fourth. Amador Valley edged the game the way with the game well out of reach.

fans would regard the game as "garbage time." But by Berkeley standards, nothing was wasted. "We could have thrown better and not much," Nakamura said. Amador Valley made six of 16 free throws while sending the Dons to a 30-point game.

Amador Valley returned the game making only 16 of its 30 shots.

Amador Valley, though, had

just as much trouble scoring from the floor. And that wasn't so much a reflection of something negative for the Dons, but something positive for the Yellowjackets.

"Our defense made them force up a lot of shots. They shot very poorly because of our pressure," said Nakamura, who has made a habit of emphasizing very strong defensive play. "Defense is the strong point in every one of our games. We get a lot of points off transition. It creates a lot of offense."

Berkeley's game plan was to stop Mia Fisher and Jaysie Chambers, Amador's two top scorers. Berkeley did just that. Fisher went 5-of-15 from the floor and finished with a hard-earned 16 points. Chambers added 13 but didn't score a field goal until the final period.

"We got great support from our home crowd," said Nakamura. "We had a good crowd — we have been getting a lot of support (all season). My freshman team and my junior varsity team are also undefeated. You get to see three good games (in Berkeley High's gym)."

Maybe part of the reason that Berkeley didn't kick its game into highest gear was because Coriel Davis has yet to kick her game into highest gear. Davis, who finished with six points, is coming off knee surgery and has yet to fully recover her speed.

Berkeley, though, is far more than a one-player team. Aisha Hollans poured in 21 points to lead all scorers. Erica McGlaston chipped in with 13 points, Robin Roberson added 10 and Angelita Hutton six. Sabrina Keyes had five while Nycole Brown and Nichole Hardaway added four each. Fele Uperesa added two points.

"I thought we played pretty good transition basketball," said Nakamura. "When we see a lot of their backs, we're doing OK. That means we've got them running."



Berkeley's Aisha Hollans (#23) scores 21 points in her team's rout of Amador Valley Friday night in Berkeley.

## Garcia's goal not enough

By Mike McGreehan

Luis Garcia of El Cerrito High shares his name with a famous Mexican player who has represented his country in the past two World Cups.

On Sunday, the latter Luis Garcia scored a goal as his team, Chivas of Guadalajara, beat Tigres 3-1 in a Mexican first division match.

Two days earlier, El Cerrito's Luis Garcia also scored a goal. But he and the Gauchos weren't as fortunate as that other fellow and his team. El Cerrito lost 2-1 score against visiting Richmond in an Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League match.

"We played good, but we didn't play as well as Richmond did — otherwise, we would have won," said Gauchos coach Fred Gonzalez. "Still, it was a pretty even match."

Richmond already led 2-0 when Garcia found the net and averted the shutout.

El Cerrito had an indirect free kick about 25 yard up the field on the right side. Sweeper Brad Moschetti lofted the ball into the box, where it deflected off two or three other players before making its way to left halfback Garcia, situated near the left post. Garcia headed the ball into the net to give his team at least a glimmer of hope.

Unfortunately for the Gauchos (6-4-1 overall, 4-3-1 ACCAL), the goal proved to be too little, too late.

"We've lost a couple of close games we felt we should have tied or won," said Gonzalez. "The next four games are really critical."

On a positive note, the Gauchos have a group of players who seem to be peaking at the right time. Garcia, Matthew Kucera and Gabe Gray form the nucleus of a superb midfield,

See GARCIA on B2



Coach: Konrad Ott, Laura Jensen, Elizabeth Watty, Alison West, (middle row) Stacey Jennifer Neiad, Shannon Brazil, (front row) Michelle Brazil, Lindsey Marshall, Abby Leigh, Theresa Esperago.

## Cougars celebrate season

By Frank Jensen

banquet honoring the high girls volleyball team was held last Sunday at the Albany Senior Center.

team was undefeated in every match, in the Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League crown for the consecutive year.

North Coast Section playoffs Albany placed first in Campolindo in the playoffs.

Lady Cougars defeated the High of Cottonwood in the playoffs.

in the NorCal playoffs to advance to the state quarter finals against defending state champion, Linden High.

Albany traveled to the tiny valley town of Linden, population 1,500.

The Linden High gym is surrounded by championship pennants, from all different sports, from as far back as 1948.

Prominently displayed was a huge, square banner, which read "California State Champions 1997."

The Linden coach is said to have turned down the offer to coach at the University of Notre Dame, just to stay at Linden

High.

Although Albany put up a great fight, the Cougars were outmatched by Linden. Afterwards, Albany coach Konrad Ott took his players to the side to talk.

The entire team agreed that next year they going to make it to state.

The dream lives on.

At Sunday's banquet, varsity coach Ott and junior varsity coach Eddie Chang each received a volleyball autographed by all the girls.

The following players were given these awards:

See COUGARS on B2



St. Mary's Charles Richey has scoring fever for the Panthers.

## Richey strikes it rich

By Donovan Corrigan

St. Mary's High School soccer star Charles Richey was in that mythical place in the sports world that few athletes ever reach — the zone.

Richey poured in goals in every conceivable fashion and could do no wrong at Jet Field in Alameda.

The strong-legged senior scored four goals — all in the first-half — en route to leading St. Mary's past hosting Encinal 4-0 in Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League action.

Richey converted a Mike Pallas assist into a goal to put the Panthers up 1-0 at the four-minute mark.

Richey took a perfectly placed pass from Brian Warren and shot it past the Encinal keeper to give St. Mary's a 2-0

advantage after 10 minutes had been played.

Pallas and Richey hooked up again at the 17-minute mark for a 3-0 lead and complete control of the game.

Richey struck again seconds before halftime off an assist from Patrick Barry to give the surging Panthers a commanding 4-0 lead.

"He was simply on fire, it was a beautiful thing," said St. Mary's coach Teale Matteson. "Charles was at the right place at the right time and he made the most of his opportunities. He's a senior and has been coming on strong of late and stepping up his play and leadership skills."

Once again keeper Justin Kelley was dominant in goal for the Panthers' as the sophomore

had seven saves and recorded his fourth shutout of the season.

"Justin has been great in goal for us all year and is a key to our success," said Matteson. "He's a good all-around athlete and a very smart player."

St. Mary's had nine shots on goal, including six alone by Richey, compared to Encinal's seven.

Richey scored a goal, dished out two assists and played stout defense in a 19-0 thrashing over Emery in nonleague action.

The athletic winger has emerged as a force for the first place Panthers over the past couple of weeks. Richey ranks fourth in the ACCAL in points with nine goals and 19 points. He had a goal and an assist in a 6-0 ACCAL win over St. Elizabeth.



# Lady Panthers eyeing first-ever league title

By Peter Mentor

St. Mary's High girls basketball has its work cut out, but there is still a chance of winning its first-ever regular season league crown.

The Lady Panthers have two big games ahead of them for a shot at being the Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League champions.

There is the road game at Holy Names Feb. 6, and the home game against Alameda Feb. 16 at Holy Names College. Win those two and the crown is most likely theirs.

The situation is like this: Holy Names, Encinal and St. Mary's all have one league loss, while Alameda is still undefeated in league.

Holy Names beat Encinal on Jan. 8, then Alameda knocked off Holy Names Jan. 12, handing the Monarchs their only league loss. Encinal nipped St. Mary's 57-51 on Jan. 15 for the Lady Panthers' first league loss.

Alameda remains the only unbeaten team in league play that has a realistic shot at staying that way. The Hornets have already played all their tough games with the exception of Encinal this Friday and St. Mary's in February.

Victories over Alameda and Holy Names would give St. Mary's the advantage in a tie-

breaker against both of those teams and Encinal.

"If we beat Alameda and Holy Names we win the league," said St. Mary's coach Don Lawson. "That's the short-term goal."

The long-term goal, and the one that means more for the postseason, is winning the league playoffs. St. Mary's is in the Powerhouse Division of the ACCAL with Holy Names and Piedmont. The team that wins the league playoffs gets the automatic berth to the North Coast Section playoffs.

Alameda and Encinal are in the Superpower Division, so in some ways winning or losing against them doesn't really matter.

But the league playoffs are seeded by won-loss records in league with the first round of playoffs played at the top two seeds, so those games do play an indirect part in the playoffs.

The Lady Panthers had a chance to stay in first place overall in the league, but lost a close game to Encinal. St. Mary's was missing starter Rosie Aikens, who was ill, and Desirea English got into early foul trouble.

"Rosie was sick and Desirea was in foul trouble," said Lawson. "That's 20 points out right there."

Even without their top two

scorers, the game was tied at 36-all after three quarters. It was a two-point margin with Encinal ahead by a bucket with two minutes left. The Lady Panthers were forced to foul and the Jets hit their foul shots to win it by six.

That left St. Mary's (14-5, 4-1 league) with its first league loss. The Panthers rebounded by blasting St. Elizabeth and Salesian.

The St. Elizabeth game could have been worse, but Lawson pulled his starters after a 13-3 first quarter. He mixed it up from that point on, putting in a quick team one quarter and a all-sophomore another. He also made them play some defenses they don't like playing.

It didn't matter. St. Mary's led 30-15 at halftime and 43-25 at the end of three quarters. It ended up being more of a practice than a game for the Lady Panthers.

St. Mary's beat Salesian at home last Friday using mostly reserve players. Lady Panthers Robin Byrnes and Jennifer Scott played well in that game.

"Robin Byrnes did an outstanding job all around," said St. Mary's assistant coach Sam Coleman. "Jennifer Scott hit two threes in a row midway through the third quarter. That just opened up everything on the floor."

left, but the Dons never fully recovered from their earlier offensive anemia.

Kaylin Thornton led the Yellowjackets with 15 points. Jason Holman added 13, including a key three-point play down the stretch.

D'Marcus Thompson finished with nine points and David Doubly eight for Berkeley (12-5 overall). William Watkins chipped in five points while Austin Nichols and Malik Harris added three apiece. Nathan Dahl finished with one basket.

# Lady Gauchos learn to win

By Peter Mentor

How often do coaches tell their players to use a loss as a learning experience and they actually do learn something?

El Cerrito girls soccer lost 4-2 to Piedmont on Jan. 13 and that was actually a good experience for the Lady Gauchos. They learned that they can play pretty well against one of the elite teams in the area.

If they could do that, why not do that against the other teams that are more at their level? So they did by winning the next three games to raise their record to 5-2 in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League, 8-3 overall.

First they beat De Anza 3-2, then took out Albany 3-1 and Richmond 7-3 last Friday.

At Richmond, Katie Eames scored a hat trick and Haley Jones scored two goals and added two assists as El Cerrito jumped out to a 7-0 lead by halftime. Jenna Brace added a goal and an assist for the Gauchos. Ann Chaymany scored an unassisted goal and Kristen Eames had an assist.

The Lady Gauchos put in mostly reserve players for the rest of the game. The Oilers scored three goals in the second half and didn't allow any from El Cerrito.

El Cerrito coach Robert

Sackey said he was glad of the outcome, which may have taught his team another lesson: When your team is the favorite, you don't rub it in.

In the Albany match, El Cerrito was dominating the first half but could not find the back of the net.

Sackey pulled an old coach's trick at halftime that seemed to work for the 3-1 victory. It was a math and science lesson, of sorts, on proportion.

"I took the whole team into the goal," said Sackey. "I said, 'If all of us can fit in, girls, look at all of the players and the coaches, we have all of us and there's still room. If we can all fit, I don't know why we can't fit the ball in here with only one keep in the way.'"

The Lady Gauchos scored 15 minutes into the second half when Katie Eames took a cross from Juliana Dragos and finished it off for the goal.

El Cerrito made it 2-0 on a pass from Katie Eames to Jones, who knocked it in past the Albany keeper.

Albany cut the lead in half at

the 68th minute on a pass from Morgan Theis. The Cougars made a nice pass up the left wing to Theis, who went one-on-one with EC keeper Monica Rosa and won the match.

That lifted Albany, but for long. Three minutes later Jones got her second goal on an assist from son to give the Lady Gauchos the 3-1 lead.

"We played better in the second half, but we couldn't get the ball into the net," said Sackey. "They had three girls who were very good and we knew we played them physically, basically we wore them out."

The De Anza match was as clear cut. El Cerrito was first on a goal by Jenna Brace but the Lady Dons tied it.

Brace scored again for the 1-1 lead, but once more De Anza scored the equalizer. Katie Eames hit an off-balance shot for the game-winner.

"Katie Eames took control of the ball and fell, but she placed the space between the goal and the post."

## Garcia

Continued from B1

while Moschetti and stopper Kevin Mello have anchored the defense. Further back, keeper Daniel Benton has done outstanding work between the posts.

But even the best efforts of

these players and their teammates weren't enough against the Oilers.

Mario Frias gave Richmond a 1-0 lead when he scored off Ochoa's assist 20 minutes into the contest.

Ronald Tobar scored the game-winner at 62 minutes with help from Angel Orduño.

## Cougars

Continued from B1

Varsity team:  
Most improved player — Alison West

Most inspirational player — Jennifer Nejad  
Best defensive player — Michelle Brazil

Coaches award — Elizabeth Watty and Shannon Brazil  
Most valuable player — Laura Jensen

Junior varsity team:  
Most improved player — Emily McCullough

Most inspirational player — Sonia Douglas  
Best defensive player — Margaret Manson

Coaches award — Sixiao Guo and Amy Jin  
Most valuable player — Eunji Kim

— Frank Jensen is the father of Laura Jensen

# Berkeley boys 5-0, too

By Mike McGreehan

Berkeley High School's girls varsity, junior varsity and freshman basketball teams have company on campus.

Those three teams are all undefeated in East Bay Athletic League play. So is Berkeley's boys varsity hoop team.

Last Friday, the Yellowjackets improved to 5-0 in league play by downing host Amador Valley 58-49.

The teams played evenly in the first quarter—the score was

tied 12-12 after the first period—but ice-cold shooting by the Dons in the second quarter helped Berkeley establish a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

Amador Valley scored only three points in the period, as Berkeley established a 29-15 halftime lead.

The Yellowjackets, though, couldn't afford to coast. Amador Valley scored five unanswered points to open the second half to reduce Berkeley's lead to nine.

Amador Valley had cut its deficit to five with four minutes

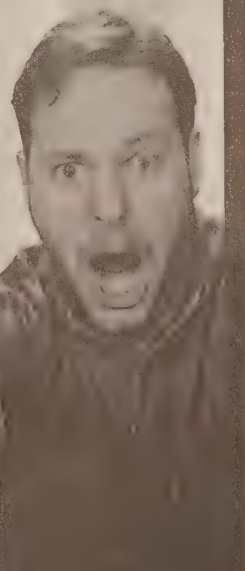
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## Architectural team travels the sustainable path

...and his Albany-architectural team are...environment an inte-...of their work. They are...with and encouraging...materials with low tox-...using environmentally...processes. He speaks of us-...from the forest with-...the forest, which...sustainable forestry. They...resources through...aware of the...impact in whatever

...can be grown in...forests," he notes, and...sometimes wood can be...of redwoods without...ecosystem. How...kind of tree grown...is part of some eco-...can be grown...harvested in...condition."

...continues: "Trees only...agriculturally don't exist...any more. There is a...between a forest and a...forest. A forest is built up...many years, and through

many plant and animal growth processes. That keeps it in balance, and it runs itself.

"The agriculturally grown tree is monitored, and grown in a different fashion, not diverse enough to be stable." His firm, he says, tries to implement materials grown in this fashion. They can't always do it because of economics. And sometimes resources are not there. But, he says, they are becoming more and more available.

He says they only recently got soft wood harvested from the second-growth agricultural forests. This can be bought economically. He mentions cabinet makers who must use hard woods and exotic woods, and agrees that their best woods are often from old growth forests. Some hard woods are grown on plantations, he says, but not many.

He speaks of alternative materials, of earthen-based building systems, which are coming back into fashion, including straw/clay earth plaster; of "rammed earth," which is an an-

cient technique from China. There is a wall in his offices made of this material. The 2,000-year-old walls in China are made of rammed earth.

He tells us of David Easton, "one of the pioneers of this technology" who began bringing different building techniques back about 25 years ago.

Jersey says his firm has designed a house using this technique, which will be built in the spring. It has thermal mass, which allows for temperature swings. Thermal mass regulates the temperature. The house will be built in Potter Valley, which has greater swings in tempera-

ture. His firm is also trying to deal with the community. He tells of working on Cordonicos Creek, along with the Friends of Five Creeks and the City of Albany. We walked to the area where the group has done a great deal of work, forming a lovely vale out of a heavily overgrown area. They exposed the charming creek, even finding fish in the waters. They

tiered the land around the creek and made paths for walking. They plan to make another path closer to the creek itself. Cottonwood trees are predominant there.

Unfortunately, the Berkeley side of the creek is still choked with ivy. Cleaned out, it would make the area a lovely little park.

Jersey and his group do the work pro bono, to help them learn how to help with like programs in other such areas and in the schools. They call such areas "living laboratories."

Sam Kingore is the member of the organization who has led them into the use of ecological materials. I spoke to Kingore about this, and he said growing up in Long Beach he went to a school that was mostly asphalt, with very little earth even around the trees. He longed for a natural environment. Being educated as an architect, he felt there was not enough balance between building and nature, and as an architect one must look at everything together, building, nature, environment and even health.

Sam says the Living Labora-

## Community Folk

By Clara Rae Genser



tory project was an experiment that taught them that all of this is an educational process. He believes that if the new generation gets education in ecology and environment, their life and the life of the earth will change. "We are educating our new clients," he says, and adds, "We also learn. In educating you learn as much as you teach. It is part of our own education to educate."

The Todd Jersey group would like to become heavily involved in building ecologically, to work more in the community and the schools, as well as working on the education process. They are eager, also, to work more "in the volunteer mode."

To this end, they tell me of a pilot program they are working on in Oakland, along with a third grade teacher and high school stu-

dents in the Youth Employment Program, to establish a Swale Drainage/Wetlands and weather station, which will double as an outdoor classroom in the area close to Golden Gate Elementary School.

They have started with a mini greenhouse where they have started growing the necessary plants. They will have a vegetable greening stage that drains into the swale; a compost bin and additional signage, all within an area that would have been a vacant lot for a regular house. The project sounds great, and could probably work well for other schools, as well.

I thank Joyce Guan, an intern in their office, for calling me about this firm. I enjoyed visiting their office, as well as the site on Cordonicos Creek.

## A.G. Ferrari Foods: Catering Italian Style

A.G. Ferrari Foods (formerly known as Ultra Lucca), with seven specialty food shops in the area, is dedicated to carrying on the 40-year-old Ferrari family tradition of providing authentic and delicious Italian food to their customers. Today it is run by Paul Ferrari, grandson of Annibale Giovanni Ferrari, the store's original 1919 owner.

A.G. Ferrari Foods now offers its marketplace of Italian flavors via catering for home entertainment, weddings, banquets and bar mitzvahs as well as corporate business meetings, conferences, training seminars, movie shoots and reunions.

The lunch and dinner catering menu focus is, of course, on Italian food. The cold and hot menu features famous sandwiches, entrees, and dishes and desserts. Chicken and pork sandwich platters are a staple along with long sandwiches and Italian-American cold platters with fine cheeses and baked breads. A finger food presentation accompanied by pasta

and side dishes is a favorite, but the panini (Italian sandwich) list, composed by chef Gianluca Guglielmi, is the most popular.

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Hot entrees include a wide range of delicious and authentic Italian dishes. The chicken, pork and sausage brochettes are delicious. The pastas are all made fresh from fresh dough and fillings. They include three different lasagna recipes, five ravioli and two tortellini. Specialties also feature the chicken marsala, roasted or marinated chicken, Italian meat loaf, turkey, frittata and pasta e polio.

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## BUSINESS FOCUS

by Laura Fischer

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## Weekend Entertainment

### General

**LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE** — OPENING — "Backyard Monsters: The World of Insects," Feb. 6 through June 6. Explore the often hidden world of insects through this extensive exhibit. There are huge, robotic insects to see, live insects to watch, and many hands-on activities. Visitors can also learn about insect locomotion by controlling robots that mimic insects.

"ChemMystery," ongoing. Survey a crime scene using scientific tests, such as fingerprinting and handwriting analysis, and figure out whodunit. There are separate scenarios for different age levels.

"Surf City," ongoing. Learn about the world wide web and how to surf it. "Math Around the World," ongoing. Learn about math from a multicultural perspective through games and displays.

"Math Rules!" ongoing exhibit. A math exhibit of hands-on problem-solving stations, each with different mathematical challenges. Make mathematical ice-cream cones, use blocks to build three dimensional structures, make dodecahedron shapes from a variety of mathematical shapes and stretch mathematical thinking.

"DNA Model," ongoing installation. This 60-foot-long model of a deoxyribonucleic acid molecule is designed to kinetically teach the physical structure and chemical makeup of the small part of a gene that makes alpha-amylase, the protein in saliva that changes starch into sugar. It is designed for children to play on. At the Hall of Science Plaza.

The Fallen Giant, "ongoing installation. This 14-ton redwood tree sculpture, the creation of artist J.B. Blunk, is intended for touching, exploring and climbing.

"Within the Human Brain," ongoing installation. Visitors test their cranial nerves, play skeeball, master mazes, match musical tones and construct stories inside a simulated "rat cage" of learning experiments.

"Laser: The Light Fantastic," ongoing exhibit. Make a laser light show, work a supermarket-style laser, examine holograms and stop a laser beam bare-handed.

"1492: Two Worlds of Science," ongoing exhibit. Explore European and Native American science and technology at the time of Columbus' voyage through activities with number systems, navigation tools, map making, computer games and a replica of the rocking deck of the Nina.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** — "Stepping: A Rhythmic Art," Feb. 7 and Feb. 27, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority demonstrates the art of stepping, a rhythmic art developed in West Africa and continued in America by slaves.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS** — "Backyard Monsters" Live Demonstrations, Feb. 6 through June 6. Learn what makes and insect an insect, whether all bugs are insects, and where arachnids fit in. Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Free with admission.

"Backyard Monsters" Family Activities, Feb. 6 through June 6. Saturday and Sunday, noon to 2 p.m. Learn more about insects through a variety of fun hands-on activities. Free with admission.

"Many Faces in Science," through March 7. A photography exhibit that encourages students to stay in school, set goals and work toward goals in the math and sciences.

Black History Displays, through February. A display of dioramas on the lives of black scientists and inventors created by local students.

**FAMILY WORKSHOPS** — Registration is required and each child must be accompanied by an adult. Call for a complete schedule. \$15 one adult/child pair; \$5 for each additional person, includes Hall of Science admission. 642-5134.

**ONGOING PROGRAMS** — Free after museum admission.

Macintosh Computer Lab, ongoing. A chance for children to explore age-appropriate software and the Internet. For children ages 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Saturday and Sunday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Biology Discovery Lab, ongoing. In the renovated Biology Lab visitors may hold and observe gentle animals. Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**HOLT PLANETARIUM** — No knowledge of astronomy is required for these shows. Programs are recommended for ages 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted. \$2 plus regular museum admission.

**OPENING** — "African Skies," Feb. 1 through Feb. 28. Use star maps to learn what the night sky looks like to people in South Africa. Saturday and Sunday, 2:15 p.m.; Feb. 2, 12:15 p.m.

"Northern Lights," ongoing. Learn about the northern lights, also known as the aurora borealis. Through March 14; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m.

"Constellations Tonight," ongoing. Using a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations for the season in the planetarium sky. Through March 14; Saturday and Sunday, 3:30 p.m.

"Saturday Night Stargazing," ongoing. See the moon, planets, star clusters and galaxies through astronomical telescopes, weather permitting. At the Lawrence Hall of Science Plaza. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Free.

\$6 general; \$4 seniors, students and children ages 7 to 18; \$2 children ages 3 to 6; free children under age 3. Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, UC-Berkeley. 642-5132.

**GAIA BOOKSTORE** —

Stephanie Hoppe, Jan. 30, 1:30 p.m. The author will discuss her book "Sharp Spear, Crystal Mirror, Martial Arts in Women's Lives." There will also be a kajukenbo demonstration by fifth degree black belt Coleen Oragen.

Erika Holmes, Jan. 30, 3 p.m. An introductory look at self defense skills for children.

"Honoring Gaia: Reading, Feasting and Literary Auction/Pundiriser," Jan. 31, noon to 9 p.m. A day to celebrate Gaia and its contribution to the Berkeley community. Guest authors and poets will read from and sign their work. The event also features a potluck; bring

a dish to share. At the Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St. Admission is purchase of any book from Gaia on that day.

Lewis Hyde, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. The author will discuss his book "Trickster Makes This World."

"Doing Time, Doing Vipassana," Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. Filmmaker David Donnenfield will be on hand to discuss this video on the practice of Vipassana in prison.

Bunny McCune and Deb Traunstein, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. A discussion of the book "Girls to Women, Women to Girls." Huston Smith, John Loudon and Noelle Oxenhandler, Feb. 6, 6 p.m. A discussion of The Best Spiritual Writing 1998.

\$3: free if author's book is purchased. 1400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 848-GAIA or 548-4172.

**PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE** — "Albert Johnson: A Wonderful Life in the Movies," through Feb. 28. A series of films championed by the late Albert Johnson, a former UC-Berkeley professor. Titles include: "Closely Watched Trains," "The Battle of Algiers," "Faces," "My Brother's Wedding" and "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg." \$6 single show; \$7.50 double bills. UC-Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 642-1412.

**PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE** — "Brazil: Cinema Novo and Beyond," through Feb. 24. A series of films from Brazil that were influenced by Italian Neorealists and the French New Wave in cinema. Titles include: "Amulet of Ogun," "The Angel is Born" and "Black God, White Devil." Call for schedule. At 2621 Durant Ave. \$7 general; \$3.50 seniors and children; \$8.50 double bills. "Experiments Tropicales: Recent Video from Brazil," through Feb. 24. A series of videos covering social issues, the outlook of Amazonian peoples, and visual essays. At Gund Theater, Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant Ave. \$6. Berkeley. 642-5249 or 642-1412.

**CAL PERFORMANCES** — Garry Trudeau Presentation, Feb. 2, 8 p.m. A lecture with the Pulitzer Prize-winning creator of the comic strip "Doonesbury." \$16. Zellerbach Hall, UC-Berkeley, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 642-9988.

**OAKLAND MUSEUM WHITE ELEPHANT SALE PREVIEW** — Feb. 7, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This giant sale offers something of everything under the sun.

  
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\$13. WES Warehouse, 333 Lancaster St., Oakland. 536-6800.

**"SWING BEFORE SPRING DANCE"** — Feb. 7, 4 p.m. A dance featuring the swing music of The Rifftrats. Proceeds benefit the Women's Daytime Drop-in Center.

\$25. Pyramid Brewery Brew Room, 901 Gilman St., Berkeley. 525-4719.

### Exhibits

**CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND CRAFTS** — "twistfoldlayerflake," through March 17. An exhibit of recent work by Ingrid Calame, Sally Elesby, Linda Besemer, Seth Kaufman, Robert Youds, and others.

"Klaus Burgel: Jewelry and Drawings," through March 17.

Free. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; CLOSED FEB. 15. Oliver Art Center, 5212 Broadway, Oakland. 594-3650.

**CAPOEIRAARTSCAFE** — "Faces of the Enemy," through March 13. An exhibit of photographs of Cuban musicians and others by Vermont photojournalist David Garten. The exhibit will be accompanied by a variety of Cuban music.

Free. Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. 2026 Addison St., Berkeley. 666-1255.

**CREATIVE GROWTHART CENTER GALLERY** — A Studio Survey of African-American Artists, through Feb. 19. An exhibit of works by African-American members of the studio in celebration of Black History Month.

Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 355 24th St., Oakland. 836-2340.

**HOLY NAMES COLLEGE KENNEDYART CENTER GALLERY** — "Jennifer Kristie: Paintings, Orthodoxy and Dissent in the Contemporary Idiom," through March 7. An exhibit of paintings.

Free. Wednesday through Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 436-1687.

**KALA ART INSTITUTE** — "1998 Kala Artists' Annual," through Feb. 12. Free. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 549-2977.

**JOHN F. KENNEDY UNIVERSITY GALLERY** — "A Brush with Our Time," through Feb. 18. A retrospective exhibit of works by Kazuaki Tanahashi.

Free. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Arts Annex, Second Floor, 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 649-0499.

**LANEY COLLEGE ART GALLERY** — Eric Ehlenger and Kola, through Feb. 25. An exhibit of neon and metal sculpture by Eric Ehlenger and airbrush paintings by Kola.

Free. Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tower Building, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 464-3586.

**TRAYWICK GALLERY** — Radcliffe Bailey, through Feb. 14. An exhibit of monotypes with collage and handpainting. Free. Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. 1316 Tenth St., Berkeley. 527-1214.

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## EAST BAY PRESCHOOL FAIR

Saturday, January 30, 1999  
1:00—4:00 PM

Come meet representatives of preschools from all over the East Bay to find the school that is best for your child

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Jack-in-The-Box Preschool, Richmond  
Bright Beginnings Center, San Pablo  
Richmond Magic Years, Richmond  
Pacific Academy Nomura Preschool, Richmond  
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Aquatic Park Preschool, Berkeley  
La Petite Academy, Richmond  
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☐ **Women's Health Day**  
For women 40 and over, cancer screenings (including mammogram and pelvic exam). Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 9 am to 4 pm at the J.C. Robinson, M.D. Regional Cancer Center. Free for those who qualify. Please call to make an appointment.

☐ **Men's Health Day**  
Free prostate screening, including PSA test, to men 50 and older. Thursday, Feb. 18 at San Pablo Campus and Friday, Feb. 19 at Pinole Campus. Appointments are limited and necessary. Please call to determine your eligibility and make an appointment.

☐ **Cholesterol Management**  
Learn how to achieve and maintain a healthy cholesterol level. Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, San Pablo Campus. Call to reserve a space.

☐ **Physician Referral**  
Need to find a doctor? We can find a quality physician close to your home or office. Call for a listing.

☐ **Prepared Childbirth Classes**  
Classes begin each month and are offered at our Pinole and San Pablo Campuses. Registration is required. Please call to find out how to enroll.

☐ **Community Fitness Program**  
Offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 10 am in San Pablo. Call us for directions.

☐ **Migraine Support Group**  
Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at our Pinole Campus from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Family Health, Hospital and Doctors Hospital

## Services

Continued from front page

Wednesday's Committee of the Whole meeting.

Two weeks before, Castel had raised objections to some of the FRT's recommendations concerning the Redevelopment Agency.

The FRT's central recommendation, that the agency go into "hiatus" until its debt to the city is repaid, was a main concern.

Last week, Castel presented to the committee what is essentially a detailed minority opinion about what to do about redevelopment.

The FRT, a sub-committee of the Committee of the Whole, studied the finances of El Cerrito's Redevelopment Agency for several months and then issued a preliminary report last December.

The report states, among other things, that the agency's financial practices "are wholly inadequate and amount to bad management." It noted the agency's \$780,000 debt to the city and made several recommendations, including that the agency regularly track its costs, that use of city staff be documented to reflect real costs and that the agency maintain reserve funds.

The FRT prepared detailed tables of information about agency finances.

Different repayment schedules were outlined and a plan that would retire agency debt to the city in four years (or less) was recommended by the FRT.

It seems that most everyone on the Committee of the Whole agrees that changes need to be made in how the Redevelopment Agency operates, but just what changes are needed is the issue.

FRT recommendation number one, that the agency "cease activity" and "go into hiatus" until its debt to the city is repaid, continues to be debated.

The Redevelopment Agency debt to the city consists mostly of staff reimbursement costs and interest charges.

"It takes \$900,000 in debt repayment to reduce the total city deficit from \$3.0 million to \$2.5 million, a \$500,000 deficit reduction," Castel said in his report.

"This is equivalent to selling the city's accounts receivable for little more than 50 cents on the dollar," Castel explained to the committee.

Instead of a hiatus for the Redevelopment Agency, Castel says the net tax increment through fiscal year 2003/2004 is sufficient to pay agency costs and to make overhead payments to the city.

He asserts that "surplus agency funds in some years can be used to cover shortfalls in other years," and that between now and July 2004, "the agency has sufficient funds to pay its staff costs and to contribute approximately \$1.2 million toward the city deficit."

Castel also contends that laying off Redevelopment Agency staff "results in a service reduc-

tion to the community," and necessary and would hinder projects as Plaza revitalization and the retention of El Cerrito Honda.

"Must the agency staff be laid off and services reduced?" he asked in his report.

Most people at the meeting did not appear to agree with Castel's argument.

At one point, Councilman Larry Damon, who attends the Committee of the Whole meetings, angrily left the building one point while Castel was speaking. He returned a few minutes later and apologized. Damon explained he was frustrated at the "polarizing talk" going on at the meeting and decided to leave rather than make things worse.

Steve Magyary, chairman of the FRT, defended the report and its recommendations as a way to restore trust in El Cerrito.

"The reason why we're here is because there's been some trust between some citizens and the city," Magyary said.

Magyary said people have gotten away from the "we are them—they soak us" mentality.

"How about something called honesty in government?" he asked.

He said the Redevelopment Agency should not be a "bait-and-switch" or "loopy-goopy" affair. It should be open and straightforward.

Magyary said Castel's "primary assumption" is "they want to continue with whatever goes." He said "I think there's a real moral problem here and real honesty issue problem here. Magyary said he wants to "go into this city running in an honest manner" so voters know that "nothing funny" is going on with civic finances.

He said that the FRT recommendations to pay off the agency debt and set new financial guidelines would eliminate "the possibility for this loopy-goopy, switching of monies back and forth where people can play the game."

FRT member George Amberg said that under the FRT's recommended procedure, the agency debt would be repaid "in no more than four years." Amberg said that projections show that the agency "will be in deficit" the near-term because of staff costs and other operating costs.

"So if you put the agency in hiatus for just a short time frame—then all these other costs go away also," Amberg explained.

Committee of the Whole Chair Thom Stark said that during the proposed hiatus, if redevelopment manager is needed, an acting manager could be chosen from city staff.

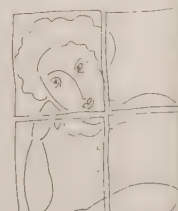
Stark also said that FRT recommendations include an "extended dialogue during the hiatus" about the purpose and direction of the agency.

He said that some people in El Cerrito "flat don't trust city government" and will need to be convinced that "it really is a new game."

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This image shows a blank, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf from an old book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor discoloration and a small dark speck near the top center. The right edge of the page is slightly curved, suggesting it is part of a bound volume.





## History comes to life in walking tour

TWO OF TWO PARTS

Mr. The First Church of  
Berkeley, conducts  
the first Sunday of the  
every Sunday as was  
this space last week.

week's column, I  
the history and some of  
the architectural  
of the South Campus  
continue our walking  
the South Campus Area,  
some surprising trea-  
the side streets just to the  
Wuzaph Avenue

Delta  
northeast corner of  
Avenue and Channing  
a fascinating Italian  
Revival building that  
the Sigma Pi Delta  
H. Reimers designed  
two-story residence,  
brick facade and a  
resplandant stairway, in  
Reimers also was the  
the mammoth  
Manor House on Glen  
Road in Piedmont.

House  
above Gayley Road, at  
Way, stands one of  
Morgan's best preserved  
residential commissions.  
House was designed in  
the year that Morgan  
her own office in San

massive, brown shingled,  
residence with eight  
sold this house to the  
Order of the Sisters of  
The building was  
and it needed a lot of  
on and upgrading.

### Owning a piece of history



Mark Wilson

With my help, the sisters found a craftsman who had worked on a number of other Julia Morgan homes.

After the restoration work and renovation was complete, this became a novitiate house, where young nuns reside while they are still learning about their calling.

#### Sarah Goodrich House

At 2498 Piedmont Ave. at Dwight Way stands one of the oldest and largest brown shingled residences in the East Bay. The Sarah Goodrich House was constructed in about 1893, and has a massive "Dutch" style gambrel roof, and fine diamond-paned latticed windows, as well as some interesting patterns on its shingled exterior.

#### Wilkinson House

One of the few pre-1890 houses left in the South Campus Area can be found at 2730 Dwight Way. The Wilkinson House was designed in 1879 by Clinton Day, who also designed the old Golden Sheaf Bakery on Addison Street, which is next to the Berkeley Repertory Theater.

This house is a fine example of a



Staff photo

THE JULIA MORGAN THEATER at College Avenue and Derby Street in Berkeley is a community mainstay.

Stick Style residence, with its peaked gable lined with a barge board, stickwork around the windows and corners, and board-and-batten paneling on the upper facade. Sometime after 1900, the lower front was remodeled.

#### The Piaget-Gorill House

The Piaget-Gorill House, at 2727 Dwight Way at Etna Street, is a true historic Berkeley Landmark. Originally designed by famed San Francisco architect Willis Polk in 1891, as an early brown shingled residence, Polk later added the Tudor Revival half-timbering in the remodeling the owners had him do in 1910.

Polk also designed old St. Clement's Episcopal Church on

Claremont Boulevard at Russell Street in Berkeley.

#### Cedric Wright House

Bernard Maybeck was the architect of the Cedric Wright House at 2515 Etna St. Maybeck designed this late example of a First Bay Tradition residence in 1921.

The Wright House has elements of the Swiss Chalet style along its roofline, and retains Maybeck's favorite use of colors in its red and blue stenciling on the facade.

#### Julia Morgan homes

A few doors up the street, at 2531 and 2535 Etna St., stand two of Julia Morgan's best small residential designs. Commissioned in

1905 as speculative housing, these two modest brown shingled homes nevertheless display the great attention to detail that Julia Morgan always applied to even her smallest projects.

#### Julia Morgan Theater

A couple of blocks to the south, on College Avenue at Derby Street, is one of the Bay Area's most outstanding example of Julia Morgan's genius. The old Saint John's Presbyterian Church, now used as the Julia Morgan Theater, was designed in 1908 and completed in 1910.

This superbly sophisticated reli-

See Wilson on page C-2

### Smart Money



Leila Gough

## Markets may be poised for record high in 1999

While the stock market found new highs in 1998, it did not achieve those levels without a great deal of volatility. Will 1998's lesson in new highs with volatility continue into 1999? How will investors be affected by the twists in the economy next year? What segments of the stock market are likely to perform best in the coming 12 months?

Here is one set of perspectives:

#### The stock market could reach a record high by spring

The Dow Jones Industrial Average could reach the 10,000 area amid subdued but sustained growth in the economy. The increase is expected to be driven by 7 to 8 percent corporate earnings-per-share growth for all of 1999, slightly more than the projected growth rate for 1998. The strongest earnings growth is expected to occur during the first

See Gough on page C-2

**BERKELEY HILLS MAYBECK.....\$795,000**  
Architecturally significant Maybeck, remodeled kitchen & baths, decks, Bay view, almost 1/3 acre, bomb shelter, 2 car garage.  
VICTOR FIERRO 339-8900 x 248

**PRIDE OF HADDOON HILL.....\$525,000**  
Decorator perfect five bedroom, three and one-half bath, formal Mediterranean, grand piano size living room, formal dining room.  
TOM ERWIN 339-8900 x 230

**PIEDMONT SIDE OF MONTCLAIR.....\$359,000**  
One block to Village, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, formal dining, living with fireplace, family room, large undeveloped yard.  
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**PIEDMONT AVE HOUSE & COTTAGE.....\$339,000**  
Charming 2BR house w/fprl, hdwd flrs, grt live/work space, lg grnd flr basement w/sep ent & det, 1BR cottage w/fprl, hdwd flr.  
OPEN SUN. 1-4:30. SUE WILLIAMS 339-8900 x 229

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**NEW LISTING PIEDMONT PINES.....\$319,000**  
Level lot! Traditional 2+BR, 1-1/2 + 1/2BA home on quiet street with sidewalks, hardwood, attached garage, FDR bonus room.  
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**MUSIC TO YOUR EARS!!.....\$249,000**  
This 3+BR home is currently used as a sound studio w/beautifully remodeled kitchen. Home or music studio sounds sweet.  
PHILIP WEINGROW 339-8900 x 245

**BERKELEY NORMANDY.....\$399,000**  
Peaceful lane off Cragmont. 4BR, 2BA, large living room, formal dining & family room with views of bay, Golden Gate, S.F. and beyond!  
HELEN NICHOLAS, CRS 339-8900 x 238

**DREAM CONDO.....\$244,000**  
Piedmont model, two master suites, superior up-grades, fireplace, two decks, private, quiet setting. Pool, spa, gym, commute friendly.  
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D. C. HODGES 339-8900 x 223

**LAUREL AREA NEW LISTING.....\$179,500**  
4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, level yard, rumpus room, or in-law? Spanish style home above Mac Arthur. Needs some work.  
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# GOUGH: '99 looks hot

Continued from page C-1

six months of the year.

## Domestic economic growth expected to continue

Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth, which measures the increase of products and services produced by U.S. companies, could rise about 2.4 percent in 1999 compared to a projected 3.7 percent in 1998.

The outlook for a slower economy is based upon a projected slowdown in U.S. manufacturing as a result of recessions in Asia and Latin America that could reduce demand for domestic products. Competition from cheap foreign imports also may dampen demand for U.S. goods by American consumers.

## Inflation may remain low

Although the Federal Reserve is expected to cut short-term interest rates to offset some of the anticipated weakness in the economy, inflation will likely stay low at 1.9 percent compared to 1.6 percent in 1998. Low interest rates should boost housing activity and consumer spending, offsetting some of the manufacturing weakness.

Consumer nondurable stocks may fare well amid a slowing economy. As a result of a slow earnings growth economy, a softer dollar and the more mature naeonomic cycle, stocks of companies that produce consumer nondurables — such as household products, beverages, food and general retail merchandise — are expected to outperform the stock market as a whole in 1999.

Pharmaceutical companies and medical-product suppliers also are among the industries expected to outperform the S&P composite index in 1999.

Buying opportunities also exist for bonds.

One of the best values in the bond market in the coming 12 months may continue to be longer-term municipal bonds, which now offer taxable-equivalent yields well in excess of yields on taxable bonds with comparable maturities and risk levels.

Corporate bonds also are attractively priced as they have been since 1990 and 1991. In particular, corporate bonds of utilities, telephone companies and noncyclical industrial issuers are expected to be among the best choices for 1999.

However, investors should steer clear of corporate bonds that have a lot of exposure to Asian and/or emerging-market economies.

Remember that no one has a crystal ball. But we can learn from lessons of the past and do our best to make the wisest choices for the future.

*Leila Gough helps clients define and reach their investment goals. She is an Associate Vice President-Investments with A. G. Edwards in Oakland and can be reached at 273-8851. Check out their web site at AGEduards.com.*

## Joan Alford 'Realtor of the Year'

The Oakland Association of Realtors has honored Joan Alford, the association's outgoing president, with a plaque naming her Realtor of the year for 1998.

According to the Association, Alford distinguished herself in a tumultuous year through outstanding service and many contributions to the profession.

Alford is associated with Coldwell Banker in Montclair and can be reached at (510) 339-1174.

# WILSON: Architects worked wonders

Continued from page C-1

gious edifice was designed to blend in with the scale and materials used on all of the nearby wooden houses. Considered by many to be Julia Morgan's greatest essay in the brown shingled mode of the First Bay Tradition, the exterior of St. John's Church combines red-stained clapboards, redwood shingles, and wide overhanging eaves that harmonize in a manner resembling Maybeck's later First Church of Christ, Scientist, Berkeley, nearby.

The interior combines tinted Gothic-arched windows in a lovely clerestory, and open cross-strut roof beams that create a pleasant visual rhythm. This church is an official registered national historic landmark as well as a Berkeley city landmark.

## Gifford McGrew House

Two blocks to the west, at 2601 Derby St. and Hillegass Avenue, is one of Bernard Maybeck's first residential designs. The Gifford McGrew House was designed in 1900, and it incorporates one of the earliest examples of a wooden deck in the Bay Area.

The steeply pitched gable of this elegant, brown shingled house is a common Medieval feature on Maybeck's early "Gothic houses," as he often called his early homes. The dormer window on the Hillegass side was added by a later owner in the mid-1980s.

## Marshall-Lindblom House

One block further north, at 2601 Hillegass Ave. at Parker Street, stands one of the best-preserved Neo-Georgian Colonial Revival houses in the East Bay. The impressive Marshall-Lindblom House was designed in 1897 by the Cunningham Brothers architectural firm.

It has a deep, Ionic-columned

verandah, ornate pilasters, and unusual oval windows. There is an extra wide dormer window resting atop the hipped roof. Soon after this house was built, Marshall left his wife and family to go prospecting for gold in the Klondike Gold Rush.

## Colonel Greenleaf House

The Colonel Greenleaf House at 2610 College Ave. is a very uncommon version of a Neo-Georgian Colonial Revival House, which also blends elements of Craftsman style detailing. It was designed in 1902 by Berkeley architect Albert Dodge Coplin. Notice the pair of crouching stone lions which guard the front entryway to this house.

The section of the South Campus district which lies to the west of Telegraph Avenue was once known as the Homestead Area. It contains some of the oldest and most interesting Victorian Era homes in Berkeley, as well as a number of the most outstanding twentieth century landmarks by famous Bay Area architects such as Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan.

## Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, at 2300 Bancroft Way at Ellsworth Street, is one of the finest examples of a Mission Revival church in the Bay Area. Designed in 1901 by William Curlett, it has flanking bell towers and a Baroque curved esplanade gable.

The large stained glass windows in the nave are magnificent, and a number of them were made by the famous Louis Comfort Tiffany Company.

See WILSON on page C-3



DETAILS of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Berkeley, from People's Park at Hillegass.



THE SARAH GOODRICH HOUSE at 2498 Piedmont Ave. in Berkeley has a massive "Dutch" style gambrel roof and interesting terms on its shingled exterior. It is now the home of the Sigma Phi fraternity.



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January 27-28, 1999

# WILSON: Walking tour wraps in style

Continued from page C-2

**Berkeley City Club**  
The Berkeley City Club, originally called the Berkeley Club, stands at 2315 Durant Ave. It is Julia Morgan's largest commission after the San Simeon, and was designed in 1925 and completed in 1929. The City Club is a Renaissance Revival Italian palazzo. The trefoil entry and ornate pilasters and arches create an air of sumptuous grandeur.

Both a national historic landmark and a city landmark, the City Club is a must-see. Call (415) 848-7800 for information about guided tours of the building.

**McReary House**  
Across the street at 2318 Durant Ave. is the McReary House. This truly historic Georgian Colonial Revival house is one of the most rare examples of this style in the East Bay. Designed in 1901 by architect C.S. McNally, it has a curved, balustraded porch and a stained glass Palladian window left of the entryway.

At the back of the lot stands the original carriage house, complete with a finished turret. The carriage house now houses the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Society's offices and historic collection.

At 2421 Durant Ave. stands a rare Stick-Eastlake villa built in 1887. It has very refined sunburst panels on the facade, and a square tower. This house

was illustrated in an 1889 real estate brochure entitled "Homes of Berkeley." Today it is divided into apartments.

The J.A. Squire House at the northwest corner of Channing and Dana streets is an exuberant Queen Anne cottage designed by George Embury in 1892.

It displays a most delightful confection of swan-wood ornamentation. This house had a brush with fame in 1968, when it was used as Dustin Hoffman's pad in the film "The Graduate."

## The Town and Gown Club

Two blocks away, at 2401 Dwight Way at Dana Street, stands the second-oldest Maybeck design in the East Bay, The Town and Gown Club.

This brown shingled First Bay Tradition masterpiece was built in 1899. It has a projecting hipped roof that is supported by extended "outrigger" bracketing similar to that used in many later homes built in the East Bay hills. This is a registered Berkeley landmark.

## Oldest house in the area

At 2601 Dana at Parker Street stands the oldest house in the South Campus area. This finely ornamented, raised basement Italianate cottage was built in 1868, ten years before Berkeley was incorporated as a city. It has a balustraded verandah, a false-front bracketed pediment above the arched entryway, and its original cast-iron railing with Gothic-style gate posts enclosing the lot. It was almost certainly moved from Telegraph Avenue around the turn of the century. The interior was remodeled into condominiums in the 1980s.



**MARSHALL-LINDBLOM HOUSE** at 2601 Hillegass and Parker has a deep, Ionic-columned veranda and unusual oval windows. It's a terrific example of the Neo-Georgian Colonial Revival style.



**THE JULIA MORGAN THEATER** is an outstanding example of Julia Morgan's genius. This religious edifice was designed to blend in with the scale and materials of the nearby wooden houses. Many consider it to be Morgan's greatest essay in the brown shingled mode of the First Bay Tradition.

# January jumpin' for area Realtors

By Marie Alison  
Hills Newspapers

January saw Realtors assessing their past year's production while moving full speed ahead into an exciting new year... Oakland Association of Realtors Past President **Marlene Daniels-Bottano** has accepted the position of manager of the Claremont and Piedmont offices of Prudential California Realty — a big responsibility and one Marlene will certainly fill admirably... Thornwall Properties has announced a new agent joining their firm — welcome to **Janice Maupin**... La Salle Properties' top producers for 1998 were **Stephen Biasatti**, **Carol Cohen**, **Mel Copland** and **Helen Nicholas** — four of the best... Berkeley resident **Jim Hedges**, manager of a San Francisco Prudential California Realty office, had some oral surgery this month — hope you're feeling better, Jim... Templeton Residential Realtors has a new office manager, **Elizabeth August**, whom we welcome with good wishes... Speaking of Templeton, Paul has announced that **Bebe McRae**, **Nancy Noman**, **Ron Egberman** and **Leslie Avant** are their company's 1998 top producers — good work! **Karen and Scott Senzig**, of Montclair Mortgage, recently returned from a month spent in the Philippines and Japan — welcome home... Red Oak Realty held a public reception for the Red Oak Gallery Art Show opening on January 15 featuring works by Steven

**Anderson**. At the same reception, the Red Oak Opportunity Foundation award winners were announced: **Red Oak agents** raised \$22,850 for community causes — talk about getting involved! **Georgia Richardson**, Richardson Realty Services, had knee surgery this month — we hope you're on the mend, Georgia... **Mark Attarha's** Better Homes Montclair Office on Mountain Boulevard had an official grand opening on January 21 — great office and a great way to start the year... Mark also announced Better Homes-Montclair top producers for 1998: **Nahid Nassiri**, **Earle Shenk**, **Michael Harding**, **Martha Shin**, **Patricia Bennett**, **The Claybaugh Group**, **Maria Sinclair**, **Mary Jane McConville**, **Seki Chikami**, **Edith Marcus** and **Jim Schubert**. Combined sales were in excess of \$85 million. Wow! The Montclair office of Coldwell Banker learned that **Joan Alford** has been named Realtor of the Year by the Oakland Association of Realtors — big congratulations to you, Joan... Coldwell Banker Montclair also welcomes **Alex Clark** as their new administrative manager — we look forward to working with her... "Mac" McCulloch of the Grand Avenue Prudential California Realty office lauds top producers **Adrianne Nash** and **Richard Matus** — again, good job! Hills Newspapers Director of Advertising, **Ira Rosenthal**, has declared February Realtor Appreciation Month — watch this section for details...

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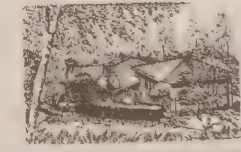
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**UPPER ROCKLEDGE**.....\$429,000  
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**GLENVIEW TRADITIONAL**.....\$269,000  
Sunny 2+bd/1ba traditional, formal dining, family room w/French doors to garden. Robyn Mohr

**REDWOOD HEIGHTS**.....\$229,000  
Charming 3bd/1ba Spanish/Med. w/formal DR, hwd floors, price includes adjacent lot. Diane Earl McCan

**PANORAMIC 3-BRIDGE VIEW**.....\$278,000  
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# Lack of credit history not a mortgage barrier

By William Kugel

A widely held belief among those with little or no credit experience is that they will be turned down for a mortgage. Many of these folks believe that they are in the same boat as those with bad credit histories. That's not the case.

Over the last two decades, mortgage underwriting has evolved to the point where it is likelier than ever to get a mortgage without an established credit history.

The Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), better known as "Fannie Mae," has done the most to standardize mortgage underwriting worldwide. When

you hear the term "conforming mortgage," it usually means that this loan is underwritten to conform to Fannie Mae's guidelines.

Getting a mortgage became even easier about three years ago when Fannie Mae formalized a process to consider non-traditional credit experience when underwriting a mortgage loan.

Lenders can encourage borrowers who don't have a credit history to build one from non-traditional sources.

The traditional type of credit report that is already the industry standard is called the Residential Mortgage Credit Report, or RMCR. Hundreds of companies have been established to pro-

cess millions of non-traditional applications for mortgages.

The kinds of credit accounts that are found on an RMCR are limited to those being reported to one of the three national credit repositories, Experian (formerly TRW), TransUnion and Equifax.

Revolving charge and installment accounts with national entities are the most common items that comprise an applicant's credit history. These are your MasterCard, Visa, and American Express accounts, department store charge accounts, retail chain accounts, auto loans, and other installment financing plans.

In the past, if a mortgage applicant had none of these tradi-

tional types of accounts, they had no apparent credit history. To offset this, the loan processor could attempt to obtain written verifications from other sources.

For example, if you are a renter, your landlord could be provided with a form to verify your rental payment history. But sending out additional written verifications consumes time. And most processors are already at or near their production capacity.

Fannie Mae defines non-traditional credit references as accounts that require periodic payments on a regular basis (at intervals no longer than three months). These include rental rating verification, utility ser-

vices, insurance payments, local stores, medical bills, school tuition, child care, private party accounts, and other rental payments such as on furniture or appliances.

This procedure especially helps young couples, those who are new to the United States and people who do business strictly in cash.

When applying for a mortgage, start with a routine credit report. Once it is determined that the applicant does not have a lot of credit experience, the borrower can complete the non-traditional Mortgage Credit Report form. Once verified, that form opens the doors of home ownership for many who felt they had no hope.

**Checklist for mortgage seekers with no established credit:**

Be up front with your mortgage lender.

Prepare a list of credit references to do business with that fit the categories defined by Fannie Mae's potential non-traditional references.

Attach this list to your request when applying for a mortgage.

William Kugel is a Senior Lending Officer for GMAC Mortgage Corp. You may write him at Hills Newspapers, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Send e-mail to [whkugel@enc.net](mailto:whkugel@enc.net).

## REVIEW: New book offers essential, but flawed mortgage advice

Excellent general help  
hurt by errors

By Robert J. Bruss  
TRIBUNE MEDIA  
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Tips And Tricks When Mortgage Hunting, Second Edition, By Robert Irwin (McGraw-Hill, New York), 1999, \$14.95, 224 pages; available in stock at local bookstores, public libraries and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Author Robert Irwin is a very successful, long-time writer of more than 30 real estate books.

He knows his subject well. Unfortunately, in his latest book, he either forgot to check the details or just didn't bother.

The result is a book with some excellent general information combined with often erroneous or misleading statements. For example, in the chapter about "prime mortgages," Irwin says,

"On the other hand, if you're self-employed, you may be turned down prima facie without further consideration."

Some prime loans will not be granted to self-employed individuals. That's simply incorrect.

Another example: "Further, today many lenders are connected

directly to IRS files and can electronically call up your tax return."

Wrong again. That would be a violation of federal law for the IRS to provide taxpayer information without first receiving a signed IRS Form 4506.

Worse yet, in the chapter about zero-cost mortgages, Irwin fails even to mention a primary reason these loans exist: While loan points paid to obtain a home acquisition mortgage are fully deductible in the year of home purchase, loan points on refinanced mortgages can only be deducted over the life of the loan. That's

why so many refinancing borrowers prefer zero-cost mortgages.

Maybe I am too harsh on this fine real estate author. His new book contains good basic mortgage information. While not very sophisticated or authoritative, it provides insightful general overviews for home loan borrowers, especially first-timers.

Irwin's advice about getting preapproved for a mortgage, not just prequalified, is especially valuable.

Chapter topics include: What Are the Mortgage Hunting Traps?; The Most Frequently

Asked Mortgage Questions; Should I Get Preapproved?; Where Do I Get a Mortgage?; Can I Get a Mortgage On-line?; Can I Get a Prime 'A' Mortgage?; Can I Improve My Credit Rating?; How Do I Get a Mortgage If I'm Self-employed?; How Much Should I Pay in Mortgage Costs?; Traps in an Adjustable Rate Mortgage; Is a Zero-Points Mortgage a Good Deal?; How Do I Get a Jumbo Mortgage?; Can I Really Get a 'No-Down' Mortgage?; and What About Creative Financing?

He also gave very incomplete information about reverse mortgages, showing his lack of thor-

ough knowledge on that important topic.

On my scale of one to 10, this disappointing new book rates a six.

There are a wealth of how-to's for those in search of a mortgage. As in all tools you use, make sure you're getting the best.

Robert J. Bruss is a real estate attorney and syndicated columnist based in Burlingame, CA. You may write to him in care of Hills Newspapers, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8099.

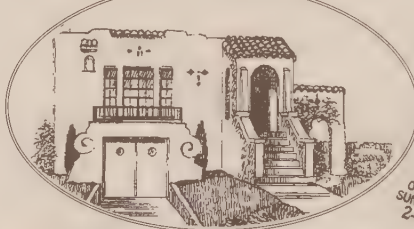


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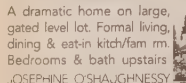
78 STRATHMOOR DRIVE



\$795,000

This wonderful new Spanish Mediterranean embraces panoramic views of Claremont Canyon. 3 bedrooms/2 1/2 baths & office. Country accents throughout. DEBRA DRYDEN

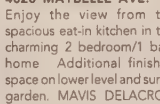
4601 ROCKINGHAM CT.



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A dramatic home on large, gated level lot. Formal living, dining & eat-in kitchen/family room. Bedrooms & bath upstairs. JOSEPHINE O'SHAUGHNESSY

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NEW LISTING \$225,000

Enjoy the view from the spacious eat-in kitchen in this charming 2 bedroom/1 bath home. Additional finished space on lower level and sunny garden. MAVIS DELACROIX

Piedmont - By Appointment

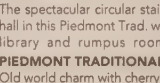
GLEN ALPINE ROAD



\$2,495,000

A French Country Estate on a level site. Elegant formal rooms, European library & luxurious master suite w/dual baths 10+bdms/7+ba & guest house. SANDRA VOGL

WONDERFUL TRADITIONAL

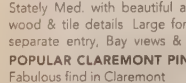


\$1,390,000

The spectacular circular staircase highlights the grand entry hall in this Piedmont Trad. w/5 bedrooms/3 1/2 baths w/cozy library and rumpus room. ANIAN PETTIT TUNNEY

Oakland & Berkeley - By Appointment

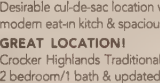
BERKELEY MEDITERRANEAN



\$720,000

Stately Med. with beautiful architecture and original wood & tile details. Large formal rooms, Au-pair w/separate entry, Bay views & level garden. ED KUO

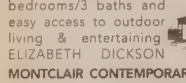
RIDGEMONT CONTEMPORARY



\$489,000

Desirable cul-de-sac location w/4 bdms/3 ba. Elegant living rm, modern eat-in kitchen & spacious fam. rm. SHERRY BENNINGER

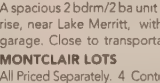
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Fabulous find in Claremont Pines. One level living w/3 bedrooms/3 baths and easy access to outdoor living & entertaining. ELIZABETH DICKSON

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OAKLAND, 860 LEO WAY. Wonderful 2BR, lot in prime cul-de-sac location. Off Broadway Terrace. Leslie Avant ext. 122.....\$170,000

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# Circumstances conspire: heirs, property in limbo

1997 in a series of true circumstances in real estate

week when I needed insurance about my life insurance policy. I called my friend and was glad to have an agent. Bruce and I met through him. They were little girls and I was as much time to spend as possible.

When the girls are still young, they go to different schools and it's been a year since we've visited together.

Bruce about Alex and Annie. They both died, he said. In 1986, within a week of his death, he told me that my mom and I had lost some year and we had lost about our parents' hospitalizations. Their deaths and our sadness over the circumstances.



## Tarpoff and Talbert

Bruce's mother, Sylvia, had been quite ill, she'd had a stroke, then a heart attack, and was in the hospital in intensive care when she died. William, Bruce's father had been sick, too, and was in the same hospital at the same time as Bruce's mom but his condition seemed to be far less life threatening. Everyone expected that William would be returning home within a short time.

While still hospitalized, William decided he and his wife should get their estate in order. An attorney was contacted to draw up a living trust and related papers, but before the attorney could get the papers signed, Sylvia died.

Bruce and his brother made arrangements to take William from the hospital in Palm Springs to Los Angeles where the Sylvia's funeral and burial would take place. A few days later William had to be readmitted to a hospital, this time in Los Angeles.

Again his attorney was called and he met with William. Papers were drawn and signed naming Bruce and his brother as the heirs to their parents' estate. Two days later, unexpectedly, William died.

During the last year and a half Bruce and his brother have been trying to settle their parents' affairs. They've run into some unusual difficulties.

Sylvia and William owned little beyond their home in Palm Springs, a modest, single-story

condominium, one of 175 such condos in a development that they'd bought brand new in the early 1970s.

Like other properties in Palm Springs, this development was built on leased land controlled by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Originally, Bruce and his brother came to find out, the land lease was for 60 years; about 34 years remain on the lease now. The condominium association has been negotiating for a new, longer lease for a couple of years now, but there is no new contract as yet.

Real estate agents in Palm Springs told Bruce that the length of the lease affects the value of the property. Lenders are reluctant to make loans on leased land property with leases of less than 35 years; buyers prefer longer leases as well. Bruce was told that the lack of a longer lease has devalued the property by 20 to 30 percent.

Just as Bruce and his brother

were trying to decide whether to try to sell the condo as things were or to hold off in hopes of successful negotiations with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, another problem came to light: a title problem.

In 1982, on the recommendation of their attorney, Sylvia and William changed the way in which they held title to their home from tenants in common to community property. This was done so that when one of them died, the other would have a more advantageous tax situation.

Unfortunately, no one had contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs to get their permission for the change, probably because they were unaware that such permission was required.

This was a real problem, the parents' attorney explained, one that would prevent the sale of the property. The Bureau of Indian

Affairs would have to be petitioned to allow the old change in title to stand before the new change to Bruce and his brother's ownership could take place. Only then could the property be sold.

What to do with Sylvia and William's house, now standing empty? The brothers decided to rent it out while they waited to clear the title.

However, rentals in vacation-oriented Palm Springs are seldom year-round. Demand is for seasonal rentals, generally from mid-December to mid-March. This unfortunately leaves the house vacant for much of the year while the house expenses are ongoing.

Not long before they died, Sylvia and William had borrowed against their house. It wasn't an easy loan to get due to the length

See Panel on page C-10

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**Marilyn Bremser**

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**RICHMOND HILLTOP PATIO HOME...\$125,000**  
JUST LISTED. Spacious 3BR/2BA home on one level with attached 2-car garage. Super convenient, close to shopping with good freeway access.



# Fannie Mae, NAACP join forces for homeownership gains

## From staff reports

**Editor's note:** This article ran incomplete last week. We are reprinting it for you today in its entirety.

McLEAN, VA — Freddie Mac recently announced that it entered into a broad national initiative with the NAACP to increase minority home ownership in America.

The partnership aims to expand community-based outreach, credit counseling and marketing efforts, and make available low-downpayment mortgage products with flexible underwriting guidelines.

A goal of the alliance, which is the largest commitment Freddie Mac has ever made to boost minority home ownership, is to help

increase the home ownership rate among African-American households. The rate stands at 46 percent, a full 20 percent less than the national rate for all homeowners.

The initiative leverages the strengths of the two national organizations: the NAACP's national community-based outreach ability, and Freddie Mac's leadership in making home ownership more affordable by accessing worldwide capital markets.

"The joint work of Freddie Mac and the NAACP has come to fruition with a remarkable initiative that will help people across the country achieve their housing dream," said Leland C. Brendsel, Freddie Mac chairman and CEO.

"This alliance sets a new standard for home ownership opportunity, and we are honored to

work with the NAACP on this common goal."

As part of the initiative, Freddie Mac has committed to purchase up to \$500 million in mortgage loans.

The alliance will be managed through local NAACP Community Development Resource Centers (CDRC), which will work with local financial institutions — including minority-owned lending institutions — to provide outreach and credit education to potential home buyers, qualify borrowers for loans, originate mortgages and sell qualifying loans to Freddie Mac.

The alliance will be launched in the seven states where the

CDRCs are located: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Texas.

"This is a bold, multifaceted initiative that goes beyond a commitment to purchase mortgage loans," said Craig Nickerson, vice president of Community Development Lending at Freddie Mac.

According to Nickerson, the alliance will:

- Increase the capacity of the NAACP's community development resource centers through grants from Freddie Mac
- Enhance each center's ability to reach out to potential home buyers through marketing and

advertising support

- Provide the latest in automated underwriting technology.

- Work cooperatively on new mortgage products that increase the opportunity for affordable and accessible home ownership.

"In launching its largest commitment ever intended to increase minority home ownership, Freddie Mac and the NAACP have worked to create an alliance that will address a broad array of home buyer needs," Nickerson said.

"Never before has the dispar-

ity between home ownership in the African-American community and the nation been approached from so many levels in this alliance."

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation chartered in Congress in 1970 to create a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders in support of the ownership and rental housing.

Freddie Mac purchases mortgages from lenders and packages them into securities that are sold to investors.

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To run an event listing, e-mail [jsnyder1@earthlink.net](mailto:jsnyder1@earthlink.net) one week prior to publication.

## 'Work triangle' defines kitchen comfort, renovation

By Paul Winans

This is part two of a three-part series

What is the best way to start a kitchen remodel? Last week we looked at identifying problem areas and goals, selecting a designer and contractor and getting the project off to a good start.

Now let's get down to determining the new kitchen layout and choosing your materials.

Is there to be an eating area in the kitchen? In some houses there is enough space to accommodate a breakfast nook. In others there is not. Rarely does a table take up less than 2'6"x5'0", if it is to seat four people. And remember, each chair requires an area about 2'6"x3'6". This is quite a bit of space.

People spend a lot of time in the kitchen. The idea of a "great room," combining the functions of the kitchen, dining room and living room, is very popular.

To provide more than eating space in a home built before the 1970s usually requires removing interior walls and/or adding on to the kitchen.

The three most important work areas are the range, the refrigerator and the sink, which form a "work triangle" as the person working in the kitchen will be walking the triangle over and over again each time a meal is cooked.

Wouldn't you like to be able to walk just a few feet less every meal? Design a layout to make the sides of the work triangle as short as possible.

Make sure you put the sink on an outside wall under a window. Even if you are loading a dishwasher, which should be next to the sink, it is much more interesting to look through a window than at a blank wall. If the view through the window is of a neighbor's house just a few feet away, consider a greenhouse window and creating your own view with potted plants or favorite objects.

The range should have counter on either side, preferably large enough to accommodate a large pot and/or some preparation work. The minimum width for this space should be about 1'6".

Try to avoid positioning the range at a perpendicular wall, as that surface limits your ability to work at the range and it will be difficult to keep clean.

The refrigerator needs counter space next to the side where the

door opens. This makes it easier to load the refrigerator when you come home from grocery shopping. Again, at least 1'6" in counter width is useful here. The hinge side of the refrigerator door can stand against a wall with no ill effects.

With a galley kitchen (a narrow kitchen with cabinetry only on two opposite walls) or a kitchen with an island it is important to pay attention to minimum clearances. Otherwise you'll be crowded out.

Walking space that is less than 3'6" wide is going to feel crowded, particularly if there are two people working in the kitchen at the same time. That width also accommodates an open dishwasher or oven, with space to walk around the door.

Next week we will touch on some more important points regarding layout and start to look at the many options that you have regarding material choices. Have fun with your planning in the meantime!

Paul Winans, CR, is co-owner of Winans Construction, Inc., an Oakland-based general contracting firm founded in 1978. He can be reached at (510) 653-7288.

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**HADDON HILL DUPLEX.** Three bedroom, 2 bath unit and 2 bedroom, 1 bath unit, separate meters, 2-car garage. Great price of \$299,000. Kitty Wan, 747-1621.

**BRIGHT HOME WITH FENCED YARD.** Three bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, large eat-in kitchen, newer carpet & kitchen linoleum. Moon Tam, 747-1620.

**FIXER ON CORNER LOT.** Three bedrooms. John Parten, 748-1767.

**FLORENCE AVE. - 1/4 ACRE LOT ON UNPAVED ROAD.** Below the Warren Freeway. Ed Fogarty, 530-3140.

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**Oakland**  
location with balcony that gets filtered view. Convenient to 580 Hwy. Great pool area. Russ Grant 814-4715

**PENDING** Single level 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-car attached garage. Front yard in present condition. Inspection report available. Tere Lee 521-3352

**SOLD** 160,000 14519 FLAGSHIP ST. Lovely 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Popular Seagate complex! Fireplace. Appliances included. Community pool and tennis court. Tere Lee 521-3352

**PENDING** 165,000 14171 SEAGATE DR. Single story 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo in great location! All appliances included, new kitchen & bathroom floors, neutral color carpets and community pool, spa, and tennis court. Tere Lee 521-3352

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**3315,000 1233 AMBER CT.** Mediterranean style with tile roof, 4+ bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, and breakfast area. Marble tile upgrade, high ceilings, finished backyard, close to BART. Ringu Lu 814-4848

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**Castro Valley**

**240,000 19219 VAUGHN AVE.** Single level ranch style home with 2 bedrooms, and 1 bath. Newly remodeled, new roof, French doors to large private rear yard. New wall furnace and newer W/W carpeting. Bev & George Williams 522-7173

**San Leandro**



# AREA HOME SALES

## ALAMEDA

389 Anchor Wy. - \$195,000  
2622 Bayview Dr. - \$380,000  
1 Benedict Ct. - \$295,000  
301 Broadway #103 - \$195,000  
18 Cotella Ct. - \$344,000  
339 Creedon Cr. - \$546,000  
1325 Dayton Ave. - \$789,000  
1949 Kofman Park - \$479,000  
3533 Oleander Ave. - \$229,000  
2041 Otis Dr. #32 - \$108,000  
1063 San Antonio Ave. - \$350,500  
950 Shorepoint Ct. #28 - \$162,500  
960 Shorepoint Ct. #84 - \$130,000  
15 Thurlies Pl. - \$399,000

## ALBANY

1140 Evelyn Ave. - \$416,000  
1130 Garfield Ave. - \$259,000  
717 Hillside Ave. - \$365,000  
1013 Key Route Bl. - \$220,000  
535 Pierce St. #2206 - \$177,000  
535 Pierce St. #2211 - \$177,000  
535 Pierce St. #2302 - \$230,000  
514 Pomona Ave. - \$247,500  
927 Ramona Ave. - \$165,000

## BERKELEY

1213 Blake St. - \$250,000  
1531 Blake St. - \$282,000  
1627 Channing Wy. - \$280,500  
1615 Curtis St. - \$235,000  
2729 Forest Ave. - \$485,000  
1429 Grizzly Peak Bl. - \$294,000  
1562 Juanita Wy. - \$255,000  
1060 Miller Ave. - \$542,000  
2145 Sacramento St. - \$245,000  
729 Spruce St. - \$585,000  
2328 Valley St. - \$207,500  
836 Virginia St. - \$178,000

## EL CERRITO

741 Ashbury Ave. - \$236,000  
1121 Brewster Dr. - \$385,000  
7118 C St. - \$75,000  
2308 Carquinez Ave. - \$318,000  
1321 Devonshire Ct. - \$385,000  
6434 Hagen Bl. - \$215,000  
2318 Mono Ave. - \$230,000  
2704 Sonoma St. - \$295,000

## EL SOBRANTE

4730 Canyon Rd. - \$115,000  
2530 Patra Dr. - \$280,000  
1510 Solitude Ln. - \$233,000  
3902 Wesley Wy. - \$165,000

## EMERYVILLE

6363 Christie Ave. #1425 - \$138,000  
6 Commodore Dr. #346C - \$104,000  
58 Emery Bay Dr. #29 - \$115,000

## KENSINGTON

This list was compiled for publication in Hills Newspapers by TitleTech, an Oakland real estate information company, which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office. Neither company guarantees the accuracy or completeness of the information. Sales prices are based upon applicable county transfer taxes.

## 217 Amherst Ave. - \$395,000

## OAKLAND

1442 101st Ave. - \$91,000  
1014 105th Ave. - \$101,000  
2628 106th Ave. - \$119,000  
2321 109th Ave. - \$152,500  
1770 10th St. - \$100,000  
1725 19th Ave. - \$123,000  
1446 1st Ave. - \$224,000  
2914 23rd Ave. - \$120,000  
1634 25th Ave. - \$115,000  
1925 34th Ave. - \$136,000  
2249 39th Ave. - \$101,000  
418 44th St. - \$276,000  
852 46th St. - \$81,000  
840 59th St. - \$330,000  
656 60th St. - \$259,000  
667 61st St. - \$145,000  
2448 66th Ave. - \$135,000  
1068 66th St. - \$111,000  
2017 83rd Ave. - \$105,000  
2570 94th Ave. - \$71,000  
8801 A St. - \$115,500  
1289 Bates Rd. - \$285,000  
5351 Belgrave Pl. - \$152,500  
565 Bellevue Ave. #2007 - \$350,000  
3018 Berlin Wy. - \$143,000  
10714 Beverly Ave. - \$128,000  
2157 Braemar Rd. - \$380,000  
5427 Brann St. - \$121,000  
7245 Buckingham Bl. - \$500,000  
2931 Burdeck Dr. - \$210,000  
260 Caldecott Ln. #208 - \$152,500  
260 Caldecott Ln. #221 - \$166,000  
320 Caldecott Ln. #356 - \$206,000  
320 Caldecott Ln. #363 - \$144,500  
320 Caldecott Ln. #366 - \$146,500  
320 Caldecott Ln. #405 - \$225,000  
2400 Carmel St. - \$209,000  
6029 Chaboly Te. - \$535,000  
5831 Chelton Dr. - \$482,000  
5608 Colton Bl. - \$316,500

2544 Cordova St. - \$205,000  
3320 East 23rd St. - \$75,000  
1931 East 27th St. - \$134,500  
1349 El Centro Ave. - \$165,000  
5626 Estates Dr. - \$360,000  
5318 Fleming Ave. - \$168,000  
988 Franklin St. #911 - \$128,000  
4755 Geranium Pl. - \$335,000  
518 Glenview Ave. - \$395,000  
1426 Grand View Dr. - \$995,000  
4144 Greenwood Ave. - \$347,500  
5562 Griffin St. - \$340,000  
2324 Harrington Ave. - \$65,000  
555 Jean St. #521 - \$73,500  
821 Kennedy St. - \$60,000  
515 La Prenda Dr. - \$60,000  
7009 Lacey Ave. - \$145,000  
1555 Lakeside Dr. #151 - \$177,000  
9608 Las Vegas Ave. - \$160,000  
1000 Leo Wy. - \$690,000  
3901 Linwood Ave. - \$219,500  
9921 Longfellow Ave. - \$125,000  
6638 Longwalk Dr. - \$494,000  
4101 Lyman Rd. - \$315,000  
40 Maiden Ln. - \$276,500  
2612 Maxwell Ave. - \$119,000  
2915 McKillop Rd. - \$184,000  
193 Montecito Ave. #205 - \$137,500  
567 Oakland Ave. #303 - \$69,000  
407 Orange St. #207 - \$83,000  
4324 Pampas Ave. - \$185,000  
4345 Park Bl. - \$205,000  
3207 Partridge Ave. - \$225,000  
6532 Pinehaven Rd. - \$210,000  
4384 Redwood Rd. - \$372,500  
3480 Robinson Dr. - \$335,000  
5823 Ross St. - \$445,000  
7038 Sayre Dr. - \$385,000  
3516 Seminary Ave. - \$159,000  
46 Sonia St. - \$395,000  
7628 Surrey Ln. - \$325,000  
5630 Thornhill Dr. - \$300,000  
9857 Walnut St. - \$93,500  
5 West Embarcadero - \$70,000

## PIEDMONT

86 Cambridge Wy. - \$335,000  
1408 Grand Ave. - \$500,000  
233 Park View Ave. - \$415,000

## RICHMOND

624 3rd St. - \$82,000  
4894 Buckboard Wy. - \$285,000  
1812 Chanslor Ave. - \$99,000  
411 Commodore Dr. - \$119,500  
6533 Kensington Ave. - \$156,500  
2938 McKenzie Dr. - \$145,000  
537 Mt. St. - \$180,000  
1518 Poplar Ave. - \$180,000  
6013 Ralston Ave. - \$218,000  
3133 Shane Dr. - \$160,000  
114 South 11th St. - \$81,000  
405 South 17th St. - \$98,000  
532 South 17th St. - \$101,000  
2536 Treeseide Wy. - \$137,500

## SAN LEANDRO

2163 167th Ave. - \$155,000  
350 Aloha Dr. - \$174,000  
642 Begier Ave. - \$208,000  
2478 Belvedere Ave. - \$150,000  
16129 Carolyn St. - \$195,000  
2273 Cherry St. - \$211,000  
1066 Cumberland Ave. - \$220,000  
1083 Devonshire Ave. - \$215,000  
24 Dorchester Ave. - \$145,000  
1399 East Juana Ave. - \$279,000  
825 Glen Dr. - \$285,000

14228 Ivy Ct. - \$172,000  
2475 Jamaica Wy. - \$203,000  
976 Martin Bl. - \$179,000  
1501 Mono Ave. - \$110,000  
439 Nabor St. - \$170,000  
14321 Orchid Dr. - \$195,000  
2020 Quebec Ave. - \$216,000  
2213 Regatta Wy. - \$315,000  
2579 San Leandro Bl. - \$136,500  
962 Trojan Ave. - \$204,000

## SAN LORENZO

574 Grant Ave. - \$170,000  
592 Paseo Del Rio - \$197,000  
16118 Via Descanso - \$165,000  
17484 Via Estrella - \$178,000  
16188 Yale Ave. - \$217,000

## CITY AVERAGES

CITY/AREA : ALAMEDA  
TOTAL SALES: 14  
LOWEST SALES: \$108,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$789,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$328,714

## ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 9  
LOWEST SALES: \$165,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$416,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$250,722

## BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 12  
LOWEST SALES: \$178,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$585,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$319,916

## EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 6  
LOWEST SALES: \$75,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$104,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$267,000

## EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4  
LOWEST SALES: \$115,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$280,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$198,000

## EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 3  
LOWEST SALES: \$104,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$138,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$119,000

## KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1  
LOWEST SALES: \$395,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$395,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$395,000

## OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 84  
LOWEST SALES: \$60,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$995,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$222,000

## PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 3  
LOWEST SALES: \$335,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$500,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$416,000

## RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 14  
LOWEST SALES: \$81,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$285,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$145,000

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 21  
LOWEST SALES: \$110,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$315,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$197,000

## SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 5  
LOWEST SALES: \$165,000  
HIGHEST SALES: \$217,000  
AVERAGE SALES: \$185,000

# WELLS & BENNETT REALTY

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**4430 ELINORA** ..... \$275,000  
Move in condition. Wonderful home near good schools, transportation and shopping. Beautiful hwd floors, eat-in kit, lovely front yard and back patio. Carla Robbiano ext. 292



**65 MERRIEWOOD CIRCLE** ..... \$269,000  
Montclair retreat in tranquil wooded setting! 2 bedroom, 2 bath with plus room, wonderful decks, large lot with level area, garage plus parking pad. Kate Phillips 436-4100

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**DRAMATIC 90'S CONTEMPORARY** ..... \$549,000  
With views of parkland, Mt. Tam., and the Bay. Four large bedrooms, four full baths, FDR, home office, decks and 3-car garage. Nearly 3,500 sq. ft. Mary Neuberger 530-4148



**GRAND LAKE AREA** ..... \$335,000  
Remodeled brown shingle with Old World charm! 3BD/2.5BA w/2 plus rooms, gorgeous kitchen, master bedroom suite, huge yard and more! Kate Phillips 436-4100

**HOME PLUS 5 UNITS** ..... \$470,000  
Older 3BD, 2BA bungalow which shows nicely, 10 year old 5-plex behind home with 2BD, 1BA each. Rents approx. \$770+ each. GI \$57K, quiet locale and tenants. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**STUNNING 2-STORY CONDO** ..... \$165,000  
Built in 1992. Over 1200 sq. ft including 2BD, 2.5 BA, LR with fireplace, DR, laundry closet, gourmet kitchen, private rear patio, basement, security gate entrance. On bus line, near shopping. Small complex. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**JUST BLOCKS FROM COLLEGE AVE!** ..... \$329,000  
Single family home converted to 2 spacious and fabulous units. Upstairs - 3BD/1BA, formal dining, fireplace, hardwood floors, family room. Downstairs - 1+BD/1BA, huge kitchen w/eat-in area, living room and storage. "As-is." Mary Neuberger 530-4148

**REFURBISHED 2BD/1BA CONDO** ..... \$156,000  
One block from Piedmont Avenue, 2nd story with balcony, fireplace, garage parking. Move-in condition. Chris Christensen ext. 242

**CUTE STARTER** ..... \$96,000  
Nice property in an up and coming neighborhood. Cute bungalow with potential, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, formal dining room, 1 car garage. Michael Childress ext. 215

## LAND

**TWO ADJACENT LOTS** ..... \$390,000/\$430,000  
With lg. building pads, cul-de-sac location, area of Million Dollar homes, preliminary building plans. Chris Christensen ext. 242

**VERY GENTLE DOWNSLOPE** ..... \$98,000  
Utilities present. Last vacant lot located between homes, Tahoe, rustic setting in Oakland Hills near Broadway Towers and Skyline. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME** ..... \$107,000  
Gentle downslope with Bay and SF view. Nearly 1 acre in country setting. Build your own ranch! Utilities present & mostly cleared of trees. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**OAKLAND HILLS - MONTCLAIR DISTRICT** ..... \$645,000  
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# Your company has 'good' news: You're moving!

Part one of two parts  
By Conrad Bassett

It's Friday at about 5. You've worked hard all week and completed several important projects. You are getting ready to head home. The door and you are feeling a release just last week your boss told you that the rest of the family finally felt at home in the new place. The kids were settled in their rooms, their job was going well and your boss wants to talk to you. You walk into the boss's office and are asked to sit down. You've

seen that look before and it is not the one which means you are getting a promotion and a big raise. For a moment, you think you might be being laid off or demoted, but quickly the silence is interrupted when you are told that the company has a "tremendous opportunity for you."

The opportunity, however, is not in the Bay Area but in Dallas. If you want to keep a job with your company, you are going to be moving and very soon.

Your boss hands you the relocation policy for the firm, waves a hand in front of your face to make sure you are still breathing and tells you to "have a nice week-

end."

Your first reaction might be to go to the local pub and down a half-dozen martinis, but your rational self accepts that your family may be trading their new snowboards for cowboy hats... and some important work lies ahead.

First, carefully read the company's relocation policy. Then read it again. Make sure you have a thorough understanding of what the company will pay for, what they will reimburse you for, and whether or not they will provide for tax protection of any reimbursements.

Most companies provide in their policies for financial assis-

tance for the individuals they move. However, these policies vary widely from company to company and also many have tiers depending upon the grade level or position of the employee.

Secondly, will the company buy your house if you cannot sell it? Make sure you have a written commitment from your company for this benefit. Based upon the home values in the Oakland hills,


this is probably the biggest expense you will have.

Will the company provide for you a bridge loan or an equity advance? If you find your dream house and need funds for a deposit or down payment, how will you come up with it?

Next, prepare for your household goods movement. What will the company move for you? Will they move the sailboat you just

bought? What about your son's car...or your daughter's horse? These examples may seem extravagant but just about everyone has something special that needs to be moved that might not be covered.

Continues next week



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# Prudential Real Estate

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Spectacular views w/ solitude of hills 5BD/4BA, 4,400 sq. ft.  
Potential for private 2nd level!  
John Wesley 869-4209

**GORGEOUS!**  
\$479,500  
Restored! Montclair 3+BD/2+BA.  
Sunny, hardwood floors, family room.  
Adrianne Nash 763-4060

**WALNUT CREEK**

**GREAT LARGE HOME NEAR U.C.!**.....\$420,000  
4BD/2+BA w/ wheel chair access. Remodeled kitchen, fireplace, decks, bonus room, skylight & formal dining room.  
Robert Ellis 869-4653, 849-3711

**CHARMING CONDO!...**.....\$195,000  
Walk to UC from this 1BD w/ deck, fireplace & view. Secure parking, guest room in complex.  
Barbara Levy 869-2786, 849-3711

**NINTH & ADDISON CONDO**.....\$137,950  
Close to 4th St. dining & shopping. New paint & carpets, new stove and refrigerator. 2BD/1BA.  
Norine Shima 845-0200

**SOARING BEAM CEILING**.....\$135,000  
2BD/2BA, Large deck new carpets.  
Randall/Grynbal 339-9290

**WEST COUNTY**

◆ **EL CERRITO 1/2 ACRE ESTATE**.....\$645,000  
5BD/3BA, 3 lots, in-law, privacy, perfect Bay views! 1406 Navellier.  
Open Sun 1-3. Must see!  
Lloyd Jung 526-5143, 644-5215

**KENSINGTON BEAUTY**  
\$353,000  
This lovely 2+BD has a master suite w/ bath. The large plus room serves as 3rd bedroom or office. Hardwood floors in kitchen.  
Carol Heath-Kim 527-9800

**EL SOBRANTE JEWEL**.....\$299,500  
Large 4BD/3BA home beautifully maintained. 17 years old! Formal dining, eat-in kitchen.  
V. Shadi 527-9800

**BERKELEY**

◆ **BROWN SHINGLE BEAUTY**.....\$479,000  
Charming 3+BD/2BA in Elmwood park. Spa, rose garden.  
Open Sun 2-5. Candice 273-9024  
Warwick 273-9048, 845-0200

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BERKELEY (510) 845-0200	BERKELEY NORTH (510) 849-3711	CLAREMONT
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# Watch where that water goes, or you may pay

## FIRM FOUNDATION

By Don Pearman

Anyone who has witnessed the grandeur and beauty of Yosemite cannot help being impressed by Mother Nature. One thing that worries most homeowners is water in the basement. Just like water in the basement, the excessive amount of water from El Nino last winter caused flooding in Yosemite Valley.

Normally, on the valley floor, there is no problem with water. There is a major river that flows out of the valley and the beautiful falls that rim the canyon can dump their water into the water shed. However, when there is more water than the water shed can carry off, the damage begins.

When we compare this situation to that in our homes, the same is true: a little water may not be a problem at all, but too much water can cause a multitude of problems.

Just because you have some water in your basement, there is not necessarily a problem. Too much water, however, and you

could have many problems: Decayed framing, shifting foundation, electrical malfunctions, mold and mildew in the rooms of your house, to name a few.

How do you assess whether the water you have is too much? That can be difficult. Some houses are built on Yosemite-sized streams without any problems. I also have seen major problems with only damp soil beneath a house.

That particular kind of problem caused damage in a house in Alameda that would eventually cost \$12,000 to fix. These problems were discovered by the homeowner when she fell through the floor. The sad part about that issue was that sixty cents worth of screws could have prevented the condition that rotted the floor away.

In another instance, a house had slipped down a hillside because the water flowing through the topsoil along the bedrock below it caused the house to slip and eventually be so out-of-level and out-of-plumb that doors

would not close, floors sloped, and the front porch fell off the front of the house.

Yet another example: The center of a house had dropped a couple of inches because the downspout from the roof system emptied right next to that location instead of where it should have been emptying - away from the house. All of the water from the roof system was collected and dumped it next to the foundation. The effect on the house made a lot of the interior doors inoperable and, since I do not think the problem was ever fixed, the doors may still be useless as doors.

The splendor and beauty of Yosemite for the most part is not blemished by water eroding its foundation. The beautiful granite peaks testify to the timelessness of Yosemite's foundation. The trees that decay help add nutrients to the floor of the forest and this decay performs its primary function of recycling dead trees. Lightning strikes that set the forest on fire help some trees regenerate, reduce the harmful insect

population, and rejuvenates the forest as Nature planned.

When it comes to your home, you are trying to trick Nature. You don't want the framing to rot, you don't want termites to enjoy the wooden parts of your house for lunch and dinner, you don't want the foundation to crumble beneath you, and you don't want your house to burn because of water-related electrical problems.

How can you monitor and mitigate the effects of intrusion of water in your house?

1. Get a pest control inspection on a regular basis, not just when you sell the house
2. Route the downspouts away from the foundation.
3. Make sure you have proper ventilation in the crawlspace
4. Make sure your wiring is up to code with no potential exposure to fire conditions
5. In some cases, you may need to get a drainage-foundation expert to assess the condition of your house.



THIS DECAY in a six-year-old house was caused by a leak, result of incorrectly installed flashing on outside stairs. Structural damage ran in at \$40,000.

Don Pearman is a contractor and author of "The Termite Report: How to Save Your Home from Pests, Rot and Earthquakes." Address questions to 2001 Hewlett Ave., Oakland, CA 94602. Phone: (510) 530-9444 Fax: (510) 530-9455.

## PATANET... continued from page C-5

of the land lease and the fact that Sylvia and William had only social security and a small amount of interest income, but they did finally get the loan. Much of the loan money is gone now.

It costs about \$20,000 a year to carry the house, about half of which is paid for by renting it. The rest Bruce and his brother

are paying. If they were going to sell now, they might realize \$50,000 or so, but they can't sell, so they wait for a resolution. Their attorney is documenting for the Bureau of Indian Affairs the parents' seemingly obvious intentions to leave their only asset to their sons.

Bruce wonders who does own

the property at the moment. I tell him I don't know. The whole affair seems to be in never-never land, and I am certainly sorry.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are licensed agents and area specialists who also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. Call them at (510) 653-2050.

## Savings bonds available

A wide variety of U.S. Savings Bonds information is available online, including a free program that will maintain an inventory and current values of your Savings Bonds.

You can download the "Savings Bonds Wizard" from the Public Debt home page: [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov).

# YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE TO OPEN HOMES

## OAKLAND OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

**4927 PROCTOR AVE.**, Rockridge. 5bd/3.5ba w/office & rumpus rms. \$1,075,000  
Exquisite Mediterranean w/pano vw & Villa ambience!  
Prudential CA Realty, Howard Converse 339-9290

**4601 ROCKINGHAM CT.**, Dramatic home on very large gated level \$825,000  
lot. Formal LR & DR. EIK adjacent to great family room. Bdrms & ba upstairs.  
The GRUBB Company, Josephine O'Shaughnessy 339-0400

**911 AQUARIUS WAY.** Montclair. 5bd/3+ba. Wonderful new home w/ \$799,000  
grt attention to detail. Family rm. Office. Level yd. Pacific Union, Joanna 339-6460

**78 STRATHMOOR DR.**, New Spanish Mediterranean. Pano views of \$795,000  
Claremont Canyon. 3bd/1.5ba. Office. Custom accents throughout.  
The GRUBB Company, Debra Dryden 339-0400

**518 MOUNTAIN BL.** Montclair. Just Listed! 4+bd luxurious new home \$698,000  
w/very amenity! 3300 sf. Kitchen/family room opens to yard.  
Pacific Union, Patricia Scott 339-6460

**6427 ASCOT DR.** Montclair. 6bd/5ba beautifully updated home with \$635,000  
privacy. Patio & pool. Potential for lg yd. Pacific Union, Teri Carlisle 339-6460

**4801 PARK BLVD.** Upper Glenview. New listing! Large 5bd/3ba \$469,000  
trad'l with south bay view. Montclair Better Homes Realty 339-8400

**10935 MONAN ST.** Oakland Hills. 4/2. Huge family rm overlooks \$450,000  
huge deck. Fab hill view! Prudential CA, Donna Williams 523-2378  
SATURDAY 2-4

**5125 CROCKETT PL.** Joaquin Miller. 4+bd/3ba. Custom, bay view \$439,000  
home on cul-de-sac. Level yard. Decks. Family room and 2 bonus rooms!  
Pacific Union, Lee Jacobson 339-6460 1-3

**6898 OAKWOOD DR.** Montclair. 3bd/2+ba. Big 9yr old Beauty! \$409,000  
Prudential CA Realty, Pam Cornford 339-9290

**4828 HARBOR DR.** Rockridge. 3bd/2ba in prestigious & beautiful \$379,000  
areal Well maintained charmer in the hills! Brian Banqued, Broker 970-0767  
SATURDAY 1-4

**7297 SKYLINE BL.** Montclair. 3bd/2.5ba w/beautiful bay view. \$349,500  
Updated kitchen. 2-car garage. Prudential CA, Laurel Strand 925-253-5442

**44 DRAKE LN.** Montclair. 4bd/3.5b. Serene & Spacious Contemporary. \$339,000  
Prudential CA Realty, Vickie Landes 339-9290

**1186 TREBLE GLEN.** Fabulous 2+bd/1ba plus basement. Charming! \$339,000  
Prudential CA Realty 845-0200, Nancy Platford 869-5395

**256-258 40TH ST.** Piedmont Ave area. 2 bdrm house plus 1bdm \$339,000  
cottage. LaSalle Properties, Sue Williams 339-8900  
SUNDAY 1-4

**4450 ELINORA.** Leona Heights. Move in condition! Nr schools, transp, \$275,000  
shopping. EIK, hndws, back patio. Wells & Bennett, Carol Robbiano 531-7000 X292

**220 CAPRICORN.** Montclair. 2bc/2ba secluded Tahoe Retreat! \$274,000  
Prudential CA Realty, Brandi Bennett 339-9290

**65 MERRIWOOD CIR.** Montclair retreat. 2/2 w/plus rm in tranquil \$269,000  
wooded setting. Lg level lot. Decks. Wells & Bennett, Kate Phillips 436-4100

**4020 MAYBELLE AVE.** Charming 2bd/1ba w/spacious kitchen w/view! \$225,000  
Sunny level garden. Adm'l finished space on lower level. GRUBB Co, Mavis 339-0400

**260 CALDECOTT LN #207.** Parkwoods Condo. 1/1. Custom paint. \$175,000  
"Golden Gate" model. Prudential CA, Uli Lirosi 273-9444  
SATURDAY 2-4

**4137 CARRINGTON.** 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath w/nice upgrades. \$162,500  
Prudential CA Realty, D. A. Hammond 339-9290

**3030 COOLIDGE.** Live in one. Rent the other. This duplex is \$155,000  
conveniently located. Fresh paint, new carpet in front unit. 2bd unit in back.  
Nr freeway/shops. Montclair Better Homes Realty 339-4000

## ALAMEDA OPEN SATURDAY 2-4

**2411 ROOSEVELT AVE.** 3bd/2.5b charming trad'l. Lovely w/Japanese \$375,000  
gardens. Fireplace. 2-car garage. Prudential CA, Susan Ellison 287-8818

## ALBANY OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

**1499 POSEN** (@ Ordway) Sunny 3/1.5 w/excellent fir plan. Craftsman \$299,000  
features + updat amenities. A "favorite" ngrbrhd - walk to coffee & veggie shops  
Thornwall Properties 848-1950

## BERKELEY OPEN SUNDAY

**43 ROCK LANE.** 4bd/2ba Normandy w/bay view! FDR & family rm. \$399,000  
LaSalle Properties, Helen Nicholas 339-8900 2-4:30

**1175 KEITH** \$395,000  
Coldwell Banker, Lydia Melsen 486-1495 2-4

**1201 6TH ST.** New Listing! Unique Property! 3bdrm apartment over \$332,000  
storefront, warehouse & office w/barn!  
Red Oak Realty, Merritt Levine 527-3387 X177 2-4:30

**2371 VIRGINIA #4** \$269,000  
Coldwell Banker, Nancy Reichert 486-1495 2-4

**1415 BERKELEY WAY.** 2bd/1ba fabulous rehab! Formal dining rm \$245,000  
Sweet yd. Walk to BART. Prudential CA 845-0211, Judith/Sheila 644-5495 2-4

## EL CERRITO OPEN SUNDAY

**1063 LENEVE** \$399,000  
Coldwell Banker, Diana Kay 486-1495 2-4

**1214 CONTRA COSTA DR.** New listing! 3bd/3ba terrific trad'l \$349,000  
Remodeled kitchen, formal DR w/French drs to patio and large yard. Views & more!  
Red Oak Realty 527-3387 X109 1:30-4

**206 SAN CARLOS.** 3bd/2ba. Beautifully remodeled! Bonus room, \$309,000  
hardwood floors. Deck & serene yard. Near BART.  
Marvin Gardens Real Estate 527-9111, Herman Sun 559-2929 2-4

## PIEDMONT OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

**107 ESTATES DR.** Beautiful 4+bd/3+ba Mediterranean. Nw kitchen! \$899,000  
Over 4000 sf on 3 levels. Prudential CA 428-0900, Rosalie Marshall 644-5442

**141 WOODLAND WAY.** Classic Colonial on 1/3+ acre. First time on \$895,000  
market since 1930. 5bd/3ba w/hwdw floors. Pool. Elevator. Garage.  
The GRUBB Company, Angela Grubb 339-0400

**459 MOUNTAIN AVE.** 3+bd/3.5ba. NEW LISTING! Gracious trad'l w/ \$849,000  
gourmet kit, formal LR & DR, French drs to private flagstone patio. Walk to schools.  
Prudential CA Realty 428-0900, Haldeh Chew 644-5422

**227 ESTATES DR.** Spectacular view! 2+bd/2.5ba. Level-in, ranch style, \$534,000  
Den, rumpus, front patio, back deck. Hwdw floors. View of SF, bay & 2 bridges!  
Coldwell Banker, Kay Grubb 339-1174

**1208 OAKLAND AVE.** Just Listed! 3+bd/1+ba. Stately home with \$525,000  
FDR, breakfast rm, den, sunroom, & huge level yard!  
Pacific Union, Debi Fitzgerald 339-6460

**1624 LOWER GRAND.** Piedmont Fixer. Choice location & affordable! \$375,000  
3 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. Montclair Better Homes Realty 339-8400

**114 WILDWOOD.** Charming 2bd/1ba Mediterranean. Light, open, & \$365,000  
airy. Hwdws. Good starter. Prudential CA 428-0900, Suzanne Yamamoto 644-5477

## RICHMOND OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

**2708 DOWNER.** Richmond N & E. New Listing! 3bd/1ba in great \$146,000  
neighborhood. Completely updated. Oak floors. Big kitchen! Lots of Charm!  
Red Oak Realty, Grace Harbo Bishop 527-3387 X178

When it comes time  
to buy a house,  
seven out of ten people  
put a down payment  
on a newspaper.

In a 1991 study, reported in *Home Buying and Selling Process*, the National Association of Realtors (NAR), reported: "Since 1989 ... homebuyers who rely on newspapers have significantly increased from 41% to 58%."

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CALL 568-7233 or FAX 568-7322  
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## 402 Help Wanted

**DENTAL/ RDA Ortho 3-4 days, easy San Rafael commute 415-456-3893 fax resume, 415-456-4530**

**DENTAL Secretary/ Receptionist; Full-time, San Francisco Financial District General Practice Requires superior organizational and communication skills Team player attitude, computer and dentistry experience essential Fax resume to 415-398-4195**

**DENTAL Team Applicants**  
Alameda County Dental Society has openings for DA, RDA, RDH, front office  
510-547-7188

**DRAFTSMAN; Kitchen**

► To Place A Classified Ad Call 339-8777 ◀

**DRAFTSPERSON**  
Immediate opening for Lazzarini Landscape Design and Construction Company. Must possess strong drafting skills, working knowledge of landscape graphics, execute drawings with speed, clarity and accuracy. Fax resume: 510-444-5198

**EDUCATION:** Perfect seasonal for Educators and Community Oriented People. Regional Supervisors Program Coordinator

**ESPRESSO/DEL/ GROCERY CLERKS**  
Experience required. Looking for long-term employment? Medical benefits, vacation pay. Must be flexible. Sea Breeze Market (Berkeley Marina), 486-8119

**FILE Clerk; Pleasant**  
Office, Oakland, part-time. Excellent entry level position. 271-4101 ext. 7

**Floral Sales/ Cashier**  
Emeryville. Flower outlet seeking full-time rep. responsible for sales and customer service. 464-1111

**Floral Sales/Supervisor**  
 Emmerville Flower outlet seeks full-time detail oriented person with positive attitude to supervise cashier staff. Excellent customer service and money handling abilities a must. Flower & plant knowledge helpful. Apply in person, 5758 Shellmound Drive, Emmerville.

**HOUSECLEANERS**  
Expanding cleaning company needs cleaners. Part-time/ Full-time \$10/ hour English speaking; insured functional car absolutely required. References USA 983-1747

**HOUSECLEANING:** Merry Maids. No nights. Immediate openings. Bonus/ benefits available. Need car/ insurance. Mileage paid. Emeryville 832-1210

**LEGAL secretary- assistant.** Part-time Key person for attorney in family law, real estate, some litigation. Pleasant Montclair location, congenial office. Must have law office experience, none

**MANAGER**

Well-established seminar company seeks full-time production manager. Strong Pagemaker and MS office skills. Must be able to work with vendors and meet tight production deadlines. Minimum 3 years of production and supervisory experience. Sal-

ary \$35K- \$45K or higher, depending on experience, plus benefits. Send **Cover Letter** and curriculum vitae to Ms. Tucker, 5801 Christie Avenue, #400, Emeryville, CA 94608 or by fax 510-652-1859; or E-mail to [biocorp@aol.com](mailto:biocorp@aol.com)

**ROCKRIDGE- 6016 Hill-**  
gass Ave. Claremont, Sa-  
urday 10- 3. Lots of book  
furniture, household item  
and other interesting finds.



### 403 Help Wanted

**MARKETING DIRECTOR OF MARKETING**  
Under occasional supervision, directs the marketing and sales program at Grand Lake Gardens and Piedmont Retirement Communities in Oakland; disseminates information to the public regarding the communities; performs sales functions; finding and following up on leads; interviewing potential residents; providing information and selling vacant apartments. Supervises the staff of the marketing and sales department. Five years of related experience, a Bachelor's degree in marketing, social science, business or a related field may be substituted for three of the years' experience, or equivalent combination of training and experience which provides required skills, knowledge and abilities. Competitive salary/benefits. EOE M/F/D/V. Mail or fax resumes.

**Seniority Inc.**  
Attn: Jane Walker  
1155 North First St.  
San Jose, CA 95112  
408-275-8173

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**MECHANIC-FORKLIFT**  
Experienced, responsible, motivated. Great opportunity with established forklift dealer in busy Vacaville. Salary plus benefits. Call now, 707-447-5281. Ask for Office Manager.

### MEDICAL BILLING SUPERVISOR

For busy internal medicine group in East Bay. Collections plus follow up. Must know CPT/ICD coding, full-time position, competitive salary plus benefits. Call 510-795-8121 or fax resume to our Personnel Department.

### 403 Help Wanted

### 403 Help Wanted

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**  
For busy internal medicine practice in East Bay. Must have 2+ years experience, full-time, regular position. Good salary plus benefits. Fax resume to Personnel Department.

**MEDICAL BILLING** follow-up. AR processing company requires experienced staff. Full-time, benefits. Fax resume to 510-729-7042.

### ARCHITECTS TO WORD PROCESSORS

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**MEDICAL/LVN, RN** week end positions available. See a "Senior Manager/Supervisor of Oakland Hills Fax resume to 510-531-7190.

**MONTCLARK Recreation Center** is looking for enthusiastic camp counselors for the summer. Please call for more details. 510-432-7812.

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**, full-time. Office phones, filing, light data entry. Monday through Friday, 8-5 p.m. Fax resume to 510-444-6565.

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**, handles speaking, handles multiple task. Good phone skills, PC knowledge. Nice insurance office, Downtown Oakland, near BART. Fax resume to 510-465-5566. Telephone 510-445-1128.

**OFFICE ASSISTANT** Part-time for investment company. PROFESSIONALISM A MUST! Will train for re-entry. Fax resume to 510-652-1171.

**OFFICE ASSISTANT** Alameda consulting firm. flexible 20 hours/week. Strong computer/telephone skills. Word processing, filing, customer calls. Must be accurate, detailed, willing to learn. Desktop Publishing skills desirable. Fax resume to 510-621-2093.

**OFFICE ASSISTANT** Seeking intelligent, organized self-motivated, detail-oriented energetic individual. Growing fast-paced local company. Best knowledge of MS Word and Excel a must. Friendly atmosphere. Fax resume to 510-749-0052.

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### 403 Help Wanted

**OFFICE manager** for small construction business. Experience only, MAC preferred. Oakland Hills Fax resume to 510-482-1638.

**OFFICE POSITION** With design/manufacturing company in Berkeley. Involves customer service, data entry, administrative duties and retail. Friendly, casual environment. Full-time with benefits. Please call 510-843-9177 to speak to Beverly or Peter.

**OFFICE SUPPORT/Bookkeeping** position, full-time. Duties include: AP, GL, payroll, Wordprocessing, phone bookkeeping and PC experience required. \$16-\$18/hour, DOE. Call Lisa 510-843-3841.

**OPERATIONS COORDINATOR** Small Oakland Company. Strong computer skills, detail-oriented, self-starter. Opportunity for growth. College degree or equivalent. Experience required. Fax Resume/ Salary requirements to 510-601-9998.

**REAL ESTATE SALES** Quick Licensing, fee reimbursement, and FREE training for licensed agents. Positions available.

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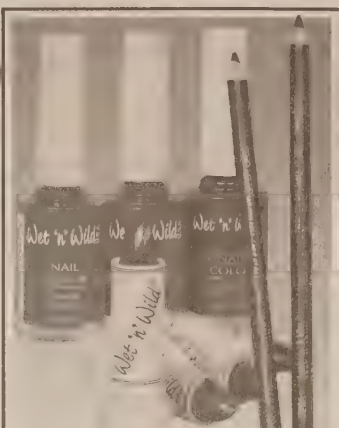
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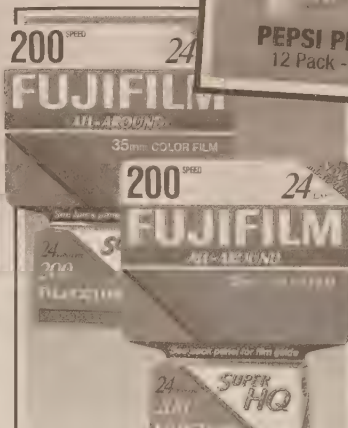
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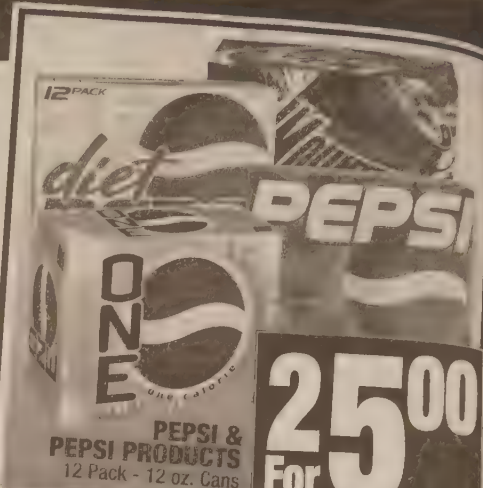
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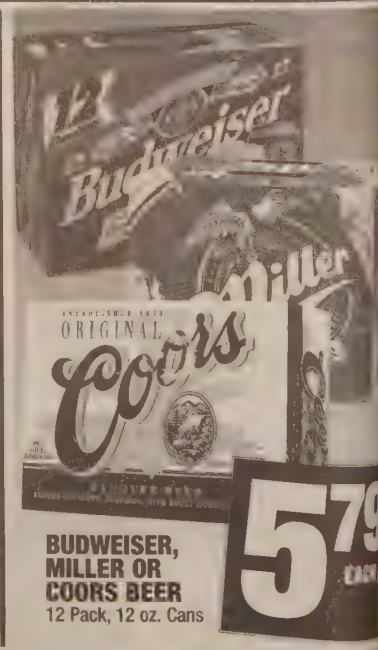
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## Cockpit makes a statement in M-B concept car

Design inspired by race car spoilers; satellite navigation console comes standard

From staff reports

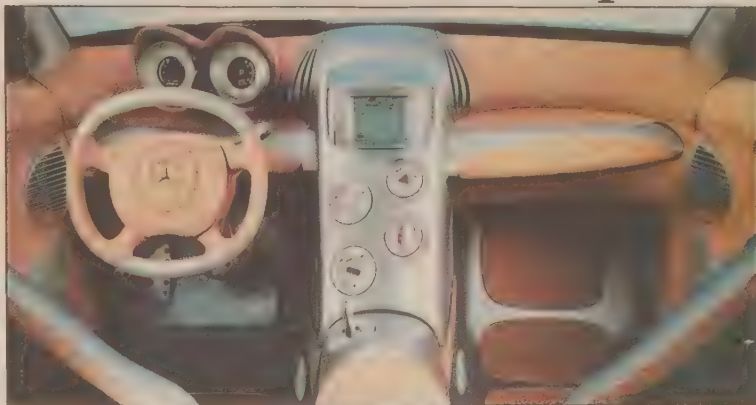
Mercedes-Benz SLR is a high-performance car that blends styling with world champion racing formula one race design elements from Mercedes SL sports car of

super-charge V8 engine can take the SLR from 0 to 60 in just four seconds. The new electro-hydraulic system with discs made the reinforced ceramics releasing power.

### AUTO SHOW REPORTS

Highlights of the striking SLR interior include an instrument panel inspired by race car spoilers, an oval steering wheel and carbon fiber bucket seats.

The innovative Cockpit Management and Data System (COMAND) with integrated satellite navigation will be standard equipment in the all-new Mercedes S-class sedans released this spring.



Mercedes-Benz photo

## Beleaguered Ford Explorer howling for a noise cure

### AUTO Q&A

By Todd Hayes

**Q** I have a '96 Ford Explorer XLT with a V8 engine and automatic transmission. My problem is that the rear end howls. It's a 3.73 X 1 Equal Lock, and howls between 40 to 45 mph and 60 to 65 mph. These are the average speeds I usually drive. Now I have to drive slower or faster to keep it from howling. What causes this? Can it be fixed? Linda

**A** A "howling" or "whining" noise from the ring and pinion gear can be caused by an improper gear pattern, gear damage, or improper bearing preload. It can occur at various speeds and driving conditions, or it can be continuous. Before disassembling the axle to diagnose and correct the gear noise, make sure that tires, exhaust, and vehicle trim have been checked as possible causes. Tires, especially radial and snow, can have a high-pitched tread whine or roar, similar to gear noise. Also, some non-standard tires with an unusual tread construction may roar or whine. Hope this helps.

**Q** I have a 1995 Astrovan (conversion), 6-cylinder automatic. When I

## Leave it to automakers to re-invent the car door

### LIVE, SHE SAID

Denise McLuggage

And "XCAPE" and it's the

fired in the door-wars among carmakers. The sunroof, a push of a button opens quickly and fully while

to enable occupants to slide and descend to the rear of the vehicle. As the obvious answer to

gress, XCAPE is

to be an option on most

and truck models.

Am I kidding? Yes, of course. The competition, however, to pack the most doors possible into every vehicle is real, indeed, and the roof seems the only remaining area not yet used for getting in and out.

"Doors are the cupholders of the 1990s," said one automotive observer. And no less than Jac Nasser, the dynamic president of Ford has quipped: "When in doubt, add a door."

Doubt must have been pervasive in the design studios these past few years. Whether sliding, powered, concealed, gull-wing or opening, as doors have since the hinge was invented, doors are what manufacturers are employing to out-do their rivals.

More, bigger and easier to use. Consider the minivan. When it first appeared in the middle of the

1980s, the back seats were accessed by a single sliding door mounted curbside.

When Chrysler offered the fourth door a few seasons ago, the three-door option remained for parents who feared that their kids might be tempted to open up while underway.

Apparently a growing faith either in their kids' good sense or in the effectiveness of child locks has prevailed.

Or maybe an appreciation of the greater convenience another opening added to the minivan convinced them. Anyway, everyone now wants four-door minivans.

The reception of the third door, cleverly added to the Saturn coupe, has boosted interest in that marque. Pickup trucks with full-back seats always needed back

doors for laden workers, but then doors began appearing on extended-cab mini pickups, too.

At first, the larger trucks had curbside doors and the little trucks, driver-side doors. Passengers were apparently to be accommodated in the bigger trucks. The drivers of the smaller trucks, seeking an easier way to toss their tools inside, were catered to.

Either way, four openings quickly became preferred. When the extra door concept first surfaced in a Chevy show, truck company lawyers tried to obfuscate the matter calling the hinged access to the rear seats anything but a door.

They were hooted down by the press and public who knew a door when they saw one. But consider the lawyers' dilemma. The

new openings were hinged at the back. Long ago, when this rear-hinged approach was not uncommon in the car world, the openings became known as "suicide doors." That's not a comforting term to lawyers made both twitchy and rich by a litigious society.

That matter of knowing a door when they see one is apparently not clear to manufacturers and to some car magazine editors. Many refer to cars with hatchback rear openings as five-door or three-door hatchbacks for some obscure reason. (I once had a vehicle with two conventional front doors, a single sliding door for the back-seat passengers and a hatchback.

What would they call that?) Anyway, to me a door is some-

See DOORS on page D-2

See Q&A on page D-2

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# Q & A...

Continued from page D-1

stop, the transmission (or rear end) makes a clunking noise and feels as though the transmission is shifting forward. GMC has a bulletin out pertaining to this matter, and has indicated this movement and sound is "normal." I've cut garden hose and "stuffed" the yoke, which offers a temporary relief. Your comments may offer some solution to lots of Astro owners worldwide. Thanks in advance. John

Whenever gears interact with one another, they need clearance to operate properly.

That clearance or freeplay (also known as lash) can translate into a clunk noise whenever the gear is loaded and unloaded quickly, or whenever the direction of rotation is reversed.

The clunk noise that is sometimes heard is believed to be the result of a buildup of free play (lash) between components in the driveline.

This would be classified as "normal." I found two relevant technical service bulletins. One describes a driveline "clunk" when stopping. This problem is caused by driveline tension buildup.

The tension buildup is the result of the driveshaft splines binding on the transmission slip yoke. To eliminate this stop clunk the driveshaft splines should be lubricated with a special lubricant. (Part Number 12345879).

Also, installing a reinforcement plate in the tail shaft cross-over support has been known to stop a driveline clunk during a garage shift or hard acceleration. I hope one of these solutions helps.

Just a reminder: Mitchell On Demand furnishes all these technical service bulletins.

Thanks.

As always, we welcome tough questions. Write Todd Hayes, 15910 Five Ashes, Spring, TX 77379.

By Arnold Wechter

## TUSCALOOSA, Ala.

**Union bid fails:** Workers at two Alabama suppliers to DaimlerChrysler AG operations spurned outreach efforts by the United Auto Workers here. The union sought to enlist more suppliers and the growing German transplant auto industry. ZF Industries Inc. employees at Tuscaloosa voted against the union 102-56. The plant supplies axle modules to Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Inc. in Vance.

A 68-59 vote against the union was recorded at Pressac Inc. in Cullman. Pressac is a chip supplier to DaimlerChrysler's electronics operations in Huntsville. The rejection of the union, according to Jim Orchard, CEO of

ZF Group North American Operations, will help the supplier work with the Mercedes plant, which is also non-union.

## DETROIT

**Ford increases rebates:** Customer rebates on small cars has been raised by Ford Motor Co. in a new incentive program that continues until April 15.

The 1999 Ford Escort and ZX2 rebate has been raised to \$1,500 from \$1,000. Buyers have the choice to receive a \$750 rebate and a finance rate starting at 0.9 percent. The 1999 Ford Contour offers a \$1,000 rebate or \$1,000 plus a cut-rate loan. Before Jan. 14, it was a flat \$500.

Both a \$750 rebate and a cut-rate loan on the 1999 Mercury Tracer are offered. The rebate

rose from \$500. The 1999 Mercury Mystique stays at \$500, but the lower-rate loan is added.

The rebate on the Ford Ranger has been doubled to \$1,000 and the Taurus and Mercury Sable remain at \$500.

Finance rates now start at 0.9 percent on the 1999 Escort, ZX2, Contour, Taurus, Windstar and Ranger Mercury Sable and Villager. The rates formerly started at 1.9 percent on all '99 models.

## WASHINGTON

**Tax credits hoped for:** It is expected that the Clinton administration will soon propose tax credits for buyers of fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles, an environmental group claims.

Credits would start at \$1,000 for a hybrid that is one-third more

efficient than a comparable car or truck. Credits would go up to \$4,000 for a hybrid that is three times as efficient, according to a summary from the Sierra Club. The credits would be available in 2003-2006.

The Sierra Club favors the credits, according to Dan Becker, global warming director of the organization.

A spokesman for General Motors said the administration still needs to clarify "hybrid" and "comparable vehicle" and should set a flat credit of \$4,000.

The plan, to be unveiled by the administration Feb. 1 along with the fiscal budget, also would extend 10 percent credits for electric vehicles, now scheduled to phase out by 2005.

**MONTVALE, N.J.**  
**National Mercedes training:** A joint program Mercedes-Benz of North America Inc. and Custom Training, a division of Universal Technical Institute, Inc., will prepare technicians

to perform service maintenance and repairs at M-B dealerships across the nation.

Up to 15 students are in the per class after meeting qualifications—including passing a competency test and an advanced National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation program—and are trained at a dedicated facility in Rancho Cucamonga.

The first class successfully completed the program in December and 12 of the 13 are employed at M-B dealerships.

# AUTO SHORTS

## DOORS...

Continued from page D-1

thing that is used by people to get in and out of a vehicle.

A hatchback is for people's stuff, not people, and I refuse to elevate it to the status of a door. So there.

What is increasingly favored are trucks. And trucks are growing more varied. Every manufacturer has at least one SUV here or on the way. And more coming—both bigger and smaller.

What's news is the advent of the sport utility/pickup hybrid. I fell in love with a Suzuki concept version at the Detroit show two years ago. Now there's the Dodge Dakota Quad Cab.

Blackwood is a Ford concept with the front of a Lincoln Navigator followed by a truncated bed from a Ford 150 pickup.

The Explorer Sport Trac is another, smaller, version from Ford. There's no way to overlook Ford's mammoth Super Duty truck—four doors let eight people inside this pickup which features an 8-foot long bed.

Said my friend Fred Vang: "You used to see things like this only with flanged wheels for the railroad." Can "XCAPE" really be far behind?

## Toyota's ECHO sedan reverberates as great value

Compiled by Arnold Wechter

**NEW TOYOTA ECHO:** Toyota has unveiled the ECHO, a new sedan to meet the unique demands of young first car buyers.

ECHO is powered by a 1.5-liter twin-cam four-cylinder engine featuring Toyota's variable-valve timing technology. ECHO is designed for strong youth appeal from the inside out, with interior roominess and styling that departs from the conventional.

It is designed to be simple, functional and affordable, while delivering a level of comfort a class up from what consumers expect in an entry-level sedan. ECHO will be in showrooms this fall.

**SENSIBLE DRIVING HABITS:** World-renowned professional race car driver Lyn St.

James says the most important tool for safe driving is good common sense.

She advises that regardless of posted speed limits, weather may make it necessary to drive more slowly.

In a skid, ease off the accelerator and turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid.

Don't make abrupt direction or steering changes—gradually accelerate, brake and steer.

**G-FORCE TIRES ROLL:** BFGoodrich has developed a new tire called g-Force, which is optimized to deliver barrier-breaking levels of traction and handling.

Low void and asymmetric/directional tread design maximizes contact area for extra control.

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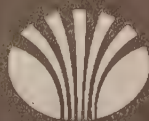
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# Jetta GLX road test proves VW workers care

by Arnold and Marion Wechter

Is it possible for a car to be too good for its own good? That's the case with Volkswagen's all-new Jetta GLX. The Jetta GLX is the top-of-line GLX. It's a compact car. It offers a build-quality rarely found in a compact car. It offers a performance similar to that of a midsize car. It's one of Germany's finest products. It's a compact car. It offers a build-quality rarely found in a compact car. It offers a performance similar to that of a midsize car. It's one of Germany's finest products.

trips on mountain roads. Not bad at all. The V-6 is optional on the GLS for the first time.

A newly-refined 2.0-liter, four-cylinder engine is standard in the Jetta. A colleague has been driving a Jetta with the base 4-cylinder engine and automatic and claims it to be peppy and impressive. Later in the model year, VW is expected to offer its TDI diesel engine as an optional powerplant.

The TDI diesel gives the Jetta a highway EPA rating of 49 mpg when equipped with a manual transmission. Unlike its predecessor, the new Jetta no longer is boxy or unattractive. It offers curvy lines that make it one of the most handsome subcompact sedans offered today.

In the past the Jetta was a near twin of the VW Golf hatchback and was offered to satisfy the American preference for formal sedans. The new Jetta and Golf offer completely different sheetmetal with the exception of the two front doors.

The Jetta shares VW's A-platform with the Beetle, Golf, Audi TT coupe and A3, SEAT Toledo and Skoda Octavia. The platform is the same but each car is different.

Thanks to a number of alterations to its dimensions the new model offers an aggressive stance. The wheelbase has been increased 1.5 inches, the track 2.1 inches up front and 1.8 inches in the rear.

One of the most impressive features of the Jetta is the obvious workmanship. Everything on the test car seemed to fit perfectly. There were no rattles or shakes during our week-long drive.

All Jettas feature a fully galvanized body that allows for an industry leading 12-year limited corrosion protection. Thanks to its quality production, the new Jetta offers a high degree of torsional rigidity. This is apparent when the car is driven hard. It handles most situations without a whimper, but unfortunately it does not provide the feel of a true

sports sedan — something that VW has done well in the past.

The Jetta also benefits from an excellent power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering and disc brakes at all corners, vented up front, plus the latest generation ABS.

Standard features on all Jetta models are front side airbags, a premium eight-speaker cassette stereo, ABS brakes, height and telescoping steering wheel, heated remote mirrors, central remote locking, two power outs and more.

The GLS model offers power windows and mirrors, cruise control and a center armrest. GLX buyers get automatic climate control, new rain sensor wipers, a refined wood decor, leather upholstery, self-dimmer rearview mirror. An optional sport package includes sports seats and larger 16-inch alloy wheels.

Just sitting in the new Jetta is impressive. It has been designed with the driver in mind. The driving position provides high seating and excellent support. A pump operated handle adjust the front seat heights and a tilting/telescoping steering wheel provides a near perfect driving position for almost any size driver. The driver and front passenger have almost unlimited legroom. The rear seat is comfortable, but not roomy — remember it still is a subcompact car.

We think you'll like the instrument panel, located directly in front of the driver. It features four circular dials that are backlit by a vibrant blue, with illuminated red needles. It is the same unit used on the new Beetle. It should prove to be an unusually safe compact sedan.

The rigid body structure includes energy absorbing crumple zone and the system works in concert with an advanced supplemental restraint system. The trunk offers a roomy 13 cubic feet of storage space.

It is hard to criticize the Jetta GLX. The price is high but that is

See JETTA on page D-4

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# Gasoline fumes could signal leak

## ASK THE AUTO DOCTOR

By Junior Damato

Dear Doctor: I own a 1989 Mazda 929 purchased new, which now has 78,000 miles and has been a great car. My problem is an odor of gas that comes through the ventilation system intermittently. There are no signs of gas leaks anywhere. The dealer cannot find the source of the smell, and there are no bulletins for gas fumes. Ronald

Dear Ronald: Gas vapor odor is very strong, and sometimes you will not be able to actually see a gas liquid leak. The vapor recovery system is a good place to start looking. We use an infrared gas tester to find the source of gas odors. For the smell to be coming in through the ventilation system, which gets its fresh air from the base of the windshield area, means you need to look at all the gas and vent lines under the hood. Also check to make sure the seal on the gas cap is not leaking.

Oil pressure gauge on blink

Dear Doctor: I own a 1989 Buick LeSabre with 165,000 miles. Recently, I noticed while cruising between 50-60 mph, the oil pressure gauge moves erratically. I have always changed the oil and filter every 3,000 miles. What's the problem? Dan

Dear Dan: The oil pressure gauge is electronic. The oil pressure switch is a common failure, and an easy replacement. Have the shop hook up their mechanical oil pressure tester, take the car out on a road test and see the actual oil pressure before replacing the sending unit.

Battery unreliable

Dear Doctor: I own a 1988 Lincoln Mark VII which I purchased new, and it only has 79,000 miles. Other than an anti-lock brake

problem, the car has been perfect until now. The battery sometimes goes dead. I had the alternator and voltage regulator replaced, along with an electrical check up. I do not know what to have checked next. The car can sit for a week in the driveway, and still start right up. It seems to go dead only after I drive the car. James

Dear James: For the battery to go dead after a drive indicates the alternator is not charging at this time of use. I had a similar problem and the cause was a faulty ignition switch not providing 12 volts to the voltage regulator. You may want to take the car to an electrical shop. You can buy a charging meter that plugs into the cigarette lighter so you can monitor the charging system.

Seeking color scheme

Dear Doctor: My grandson recently purchased a 1964 Ford Galaxy and wants to restore it. Do you know what the original colors were and where could we find parts for the car? Marcia

Dear Marcia: There are many sources and clubs where you can find information, parts and good companies to restore your grandson's '64 Ford. A trip to the library will enlighten you on everything that is available, or go to the Internet. You and your grandson can attend auto flea markets and shows. Do your homework before you buy.

S-10 groaning sound

Dear Doctor: I own a 1992 Chevy S-10 4x4 with the 4.3-liter V6 engine and 77,000 miles on it. Sometimes, in the morning after the truck has sat overnight, the engine starts and runs fine. As soon as I put it in gear and start moving, there is a groaning sound that echoes with the shifting of gears. If I put the truck in neutral the groan will still be there, until I hear a clunk and the noise disappears for the rest of the day. I

have had the car to two dealers and they replaced ball joints and the fan clutch under warranty. Can you advise? Allan

Dear Allan: Put the pickup in 4WD when there is no groan present and see if the noise is similar to your groaning sound. The item to check is the front differential engagement unit. This is vacuum operated and can cause the symptom you describe.

Is it the fuel pump?

Dear Doctor: Last summer, I was given my mom's 1989 Mustang with 20,000 miles. One day, after parking the car for a short while, I went to restart it and it did not start. An hour or so later it would start and run perfectly. After a few of these no-start problems, I took the car to the shop. They could not duplicate the problem and suggested I replace the fuel pump and fuel pump relay. I did and all seemed well for a month or so, but now the intermittent no-start is back. What do you think? Bob

Dear Bob: Both the fuel pump and power relay are common problems. A fuel pump usually will not fail sporadically. The ignition module is a very common failure with this symptom. Did the shop check for any trouble codes stored in the computer memory? You can ask the shop to install a spark tester to any spark plug, so if and when the car fails to start again, you can open the hood, and while trying to start the engine, see if the spark tester had any spark going through it.

Airbag shutoff easy?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1994 T-Bird with airbags. After reading an article in our local newspaper that said airbags can deploy accidentally, I asked my Ford dealer if he could shut the airbags off. I like the car, but am afraid of an

exploding airbag. I sit very close to the steering wheel. Do you know anyone who will disconnect my airbag?

John Dear John: You need to apply for a permission slip from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration by calling 800/824-9393, or contact your local AAA office. They will send a form to fill out. Both AAA and NHTSA will have a list of shops in your area that have the training to install an off/on switch for airbags. I have been installing off/on airbag switches for almost two years. The average cost is \$295 per airbag installed. You can also check on the Internet Air Bag Options in Texas.

Front axles won't pull

Dear Doctor: I own a 1984 Ford Bronco 4x4 with two problems. First is the engagement of the front axles. I shift into four-wheel drive, but the front does not pull. I can turn the right front axle by hand, but not the left. Second, when the engine is cold and I shift it into drive, the truck will not move forward for a minute or two. I was told the pump is weak and the transmission would need to be pulled out and overhauled. Any advice? David

Dear David: If you have the front hubs in a locked position you should not be able to turn the front axle by hand. If you can, the problem is in the locking hub. As for the transmission not engaging cold in drive, I would check the transmission fluid condition and level to see if there is any adjustment left on the forward clutch or band. I would also change the fluid and drain the torque converter and filter. If the transmission problem persists, it will indeed have to be overhauled.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347 Copyright 1999, Motor Matters

## JETTA...

Continued from page D-3

expected in a quality product. The rear seat could use more room, but again we're talking about a subcompact sedan.

If VW engineers beef up the suspension and make it more sporty feeling they will have something that we'd personally find very attractive. The question remains: will American buyers willing to pay more to get an upscale luxury compact sedan?

Specifications:

Jetta GLX

Type 4-door sedan

Base price: \$19,950

As tested: \$22,325

Horsepower: 174 bhp @ 5800 rpm

Torque: 181 ft/lbs @ 3200 rpm

Transmission: 5-speed manual with optional automatic

Brakes: Vented 11.3 in. front discs, solid 9.1 in. rear discs with ABS

Track, front/rear: 59.6/58.8 in.

Overall length: 172.3 in.

Height: 56.9 Width: 68.3 in.

Curb weight: 3,051 lbs.

Fuel capacity: 14.5 gal.

EPA rating: 19 mpg city, 26 mpg highway



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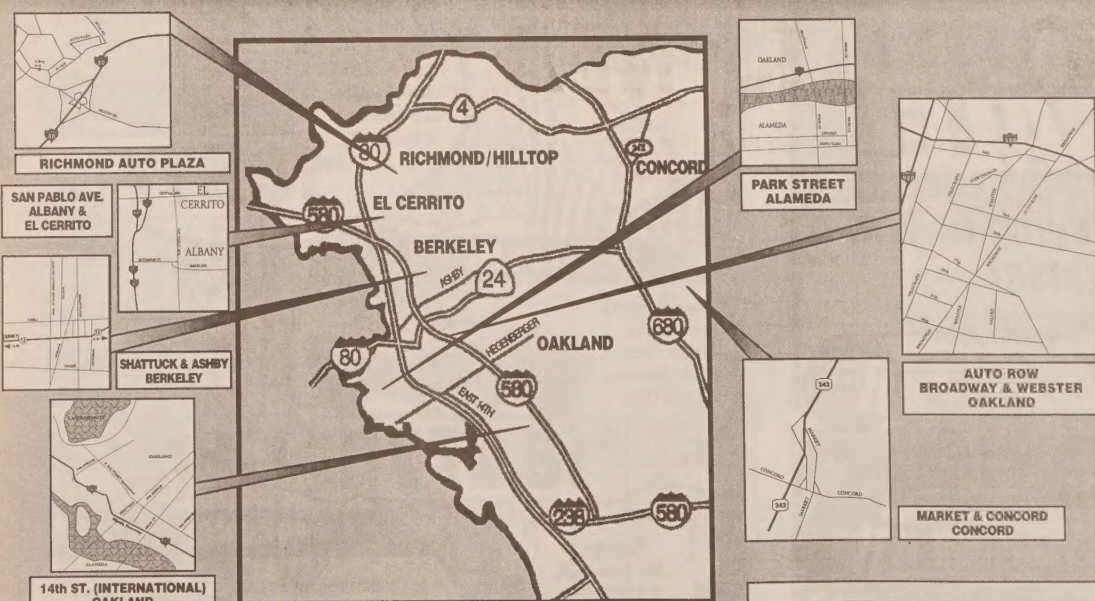
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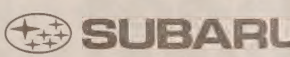

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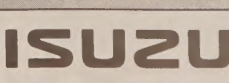


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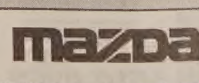
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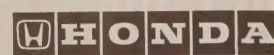


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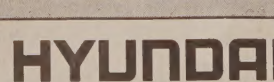
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# 66 Dodge Coronet convertible in pristine condition

CLASSIC CLASSICS

By Vern Parker

Age-built 55,683 Coronet 500 in 1966. That total includes all sorts of combinations of body styles and transmissions. One very rare Coronet convertible rolled down the factory line on 7.75x14-inch wheels and had a 383-cu-in V8 engine under the hood with a Torqueflite transmission. Only 99 such convertibles were manufactured, and of those, 97 were equipped with power windows. The remaining convertible was the Atlantic Dodge in Jacksonville, Fla., with a window price of \$4,114.98. Add to that an \$86 restoration charge and you have an attractive set of wheels, while upholstery set off by a black and white dash. The car had experienced a very bad year in 1965, so in 1966 it was not up to the proverbial mark. The 1966 models were an exaggerated version of 1965 successful theme. In the first nine years of the car's history, it was known other than it was a well-cared-for. In 1965, Stitt bought the then 1965 Dodge Coronet and slowly returning it to like-new condition. After years of effort, Stitt was able to put the car back into the condition in which it left the factory on its 117-inch wheelbase.

According to the current owner, Walter Nuckols, Stitt removed all the chrome trim and prepared the Dodge for either repainting or repainting. Nuckols says that the repainted car wasn't up to Stitt's high standards. The second try wasn't any better than the first, but the third repaint job was acceptable and the car was reassembled.

Details such as the below dashboard oil pressure gauge were maintained instead of taking the easy way by using the popular "idiot lights."

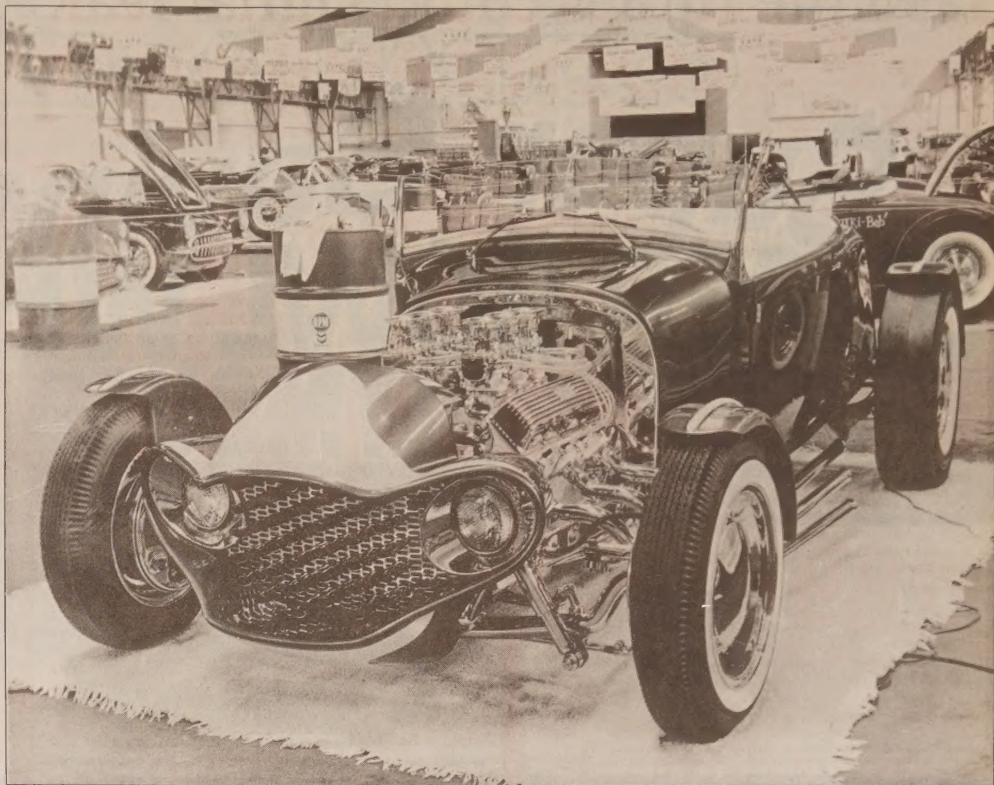
For such a performance-oriented car, the Torqueflite automatic transmission is an unlikely candidate to be found in the floor-mounted console.

When Nuckols first saw the pristine automobile, he cornered the owner and asked him for the right of first refusal if he ever decided to sell the spectacular car.

Stitt agreed, but said there were no plans to sell the 3,345-pound convertible.

Stitt gave Nuckols a tour of the car demonstrating all the features. Nuckols learned how easy the white top can be lowered and raised. And the fitted white boot is actually easy to snap into place.

Since this car was built back in the days when cars were made the way people wanted and not the way the government dictated, it is long enough to have room for the top to go down behind the rear seat, which means the rear seat is spacious and comfortable. What a concept for a convertible!



IN 1960 the Emperor roadster won the title as America's Most Beautiful Roadster. After a change of hands, the car is now owned by Fresno show promoter Blackie Gejeian. The Emperor will be among more than 40 historic roadsters on display at the 50th Grand National Roadster Show held Feb. 10-15 at San Francisco's Cow Palace.

## Saturn sales back in orbit with new three-door coupe

By Arnold Wechter

Things haven't been too bright for Saturn recently, but its introduction of the three-door coupe has brightened its sales picture.

The brand's six percent sales increase recorded in December ranks as one of the few positive sales developments in recent months. Due mainly to a spurt in coupe sales, the increase was the first month-to-month gain Saturn has made since April.

The line has had only two other month-over-month sales gains since May 1996. The manufacturer sold 231,796 cars this past calendar year, its fourth straight year of falling sales.

Normally, the coupe accounts for less than 20 percent of Saturn sales. With sales flat for the rest of the line, the upswing in coupe sales translated into a 6.3 percent gain for the entire line.

Saturn's idea of adding a third door to the coupe without changing the vehicle's shape apparently has stimulated sales. A total of 2,900 sales of coupes was recorded in December, up 18 percent from the 2,400 coupes sold in December, 1997.

Most of the coupes sold in December were the three-door model. Saturn ended production of the 1999 two-door coupes in early October. Introduced in November, dealers were not well

stocked with the car until late December, according to spokesman Greg Martin.

Martin said the December sales performance is not a true measure of what the model will do on the market, and added Saturn will be looking for an entire quarter of sales before making a judgment on the three-door model.

The third door was added by Saturn in hopes of broadening the car's appeal. Small car sales have been sluggish at best, and coupe sales even more so.

It is Saturn's hope and belief that the addition of a third door, an industry first, will make the vehicle more useful to owners,

without detracting from the sporty identity of a two-door model.

At the same time, some have strongly criticized the advertising campaign for the three-door coupe. The Center for Science in the Public Interest presented Saturn with its Lemon Award for "misleading, unfair and irresponsible ads."

Adding to the criticism was the Center for Auto Safety which claimed the ad failed to show kids being buckled into the rear seat.

Saturn spokesman Tom Wilkinson accused the award givers of "blatant self-promotion." He said the advertising is meant to be whimsical.

# MOTOR MART

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Fleet & Truck Manager  
Bill Bassett  
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Suburban Jeep Tahoes  
DODGE 1990 Caravan LE  
V6, loaded, 89k miles, well  
maintained. \$4,800.  
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FORD Bronco 1979 4x4.  
Many new parts, runs well,  
classic California truck.  
\$2,500. 415-515-7858.  
FORD Windstar Van 1995.  
Van new, fully loaded, quad  
seats, only 48,000 miles.  
\$17,800. 510-547-3291.  
FORD 1996 AEROSTAR  
XLT AT, PS, A/C, LOADED.  
STK# 460230 Sale: \$5,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
FORD 1994 Ranger STX.  
4-wheel drive, 5-speed,  
extended cab with camper  
shell, 77k, \$13,500.  
510-531-0234  
FORD 1993 Aerostar, 77k,  
White with Tan interior,  
excellent condition, \$9,000.  
510-749-9550.  
GEO 1997 Prizm AT, PS,  
AC, AM/FM Cassette. Extra  
clean. STK# 460240.  
Lic#JUN042 Sale: \$9,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
HONDA 1997 Accord EX  
AT, PS, AC, CO, Tilt, AM/FM  
Cassette/CD, moonroof,  
extra clean, ABS. STK#  
298871, Lic#3UEG815  
Sale: \$11,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
HONDA 1996 ACCORD LX  
AT, PS, AC, PL, PW, CC,  
Tilt, extra clean STK#  
459280 Sale: \$10,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
HONDA 1996 CIVIC DX  
EX, PS, AC, PL, PW, AM/FM  
Cass, moonroof, 28k.  
Best Buy. Lic# 043007 Sale:  
\$10,486  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
HONDA 1996 CIVIC LX  
AT, PS, AC, PL, PW, CC,  
Tilt, extra clean, 5-speed,  
4-wheel drive, 87k, 1st  
owner, \$8,000 obo. Melissa  
510-574-1200  
HONDA 1996 Civic EX, PW,  
CC, CO, 81k, sunroof, looks  
great! Warranty, \$7500 obo.  
510-895-1065  
HONDA 1990 CIVIC LX  
4-door, 5-speed, manual,  
91K, A/C, PW, PL, AM/FM,  
Cruise, \$5,200.  
510-918-0124  
HONDA 1986 Civic, model  
DX, 14k low mileage, original  
owner, excellent condition.  
\$4,000. 510-531-1959  
IRS TAX DEDUCTIONS  
WE NEED  
YOUR SUPPORT  
HELP THE KIDS!!  
DONATE YOUR CAR,  
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to help  
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You can make  
a Difference!  
1-800-414-4285  
JAGUAR 1986 XJ6, 1  
owner, excellent condition,  
garaged, 74K miles. \$7000.  
707-928-5915  
JEEP 1995 CHEROKEE  
SPORT AT, PS, AC, PL,  
PW, CC, AM/FM Cass, Tilt,  
extra clean. STK# 298611  
Sale: \$11,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
KIA 1996 SEPIA AT, PS,  
AC, AM/FM Cass, tilt, extra  
clean, low miles. STK#  
456700 Sale: \$8,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
MAZDA 1984 B2000 Pickup,  
\$200. Just barely runs.  
510-236-7136 (after 5pm).  
MAZDA 1983 RX7, 5-speed,  
45k on engine, AC, sunroof,  
smogged. \$1950/ OBO.  
510-642-3904 or  
510-639-9021.  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
MERCURY 1997 TRACER  
LS AT, PS, AC, AM/FM  
Cassette, custom wheels,  
extra clean, ABS, 24K, Full  
Factory Warranty.  
Lic#3VZU150; Was \$11,795;  
Sale \$8,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
MG 1979 MGB, 18K original  
miles, soft & hard tops, very  
good condition. \$5,000.  
510-547-1744.  
NISSAN 1994 Altima, GXE  
AT, PS, PL, PW, CC, AC,  
Tilt, AM/FM Cassette. Extra  
clean. STK# 460210,  
Lic#222125 Sale: \$8,495  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
NISSAN 1984 Sentra  
Sedan, 5-speed, White,  
130K, Air, clean interior, AM/  
FM. Asking \$900;  
510-814-8317.  
OLDS 1997 Achieva AT,  
PS, AC, CC, Tilt, AM/FM  
Cassette, extra clean, ABS,  
low miles. STK# 456200,  
Lic#3VAL953 Sale: \$8,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
OLDS 1996 CIERA SL AT,  
PS, AC, PL, PW, AM/FM  
Cass, CC, tilt, ABS. Extra  
clean. STK# 458750 Sale:  
\$6,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
OLDS 1996 Cutless  
Supreme AT, PS, AC, CC,  
Tilt, AM/FM Cassette/CD,  
CC, tilt, custom wheels,  
leather, extra clean, ABS.  
STK# 460220,  
Lic#3NVP246 Sale: \$9,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
PLYMOUTH 1993 Grand  
Voyager, AWD, fully loaded!  
98K, well maintained, excel-  
lent condition! \$7500;  
510-532-2344.  
PONTIAC 1996 GRAND AM  
AT, PS, AC, PL, tilt, ABS,  
extra clean, 28K low miles.  
STK# 459630 Sale: \$8,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
PONTIAC 1996 GRAND  
PRIX SE AT, PS, AC, PW,  
PL, AM/FM Cass, CC, tilt,  
ABS. STK# 459710 Sale:  
\$9,995  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
PONTIAC 1991 FIREBIRD  
AT, PS, AC, PW, AM/FM  
Cass, T-tops, tilt, custom  
wheels, extra clean. STK#  
456901 Sale: \$4,998  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
SAAB 1993 900 TURBO  
Conv. 5-speed, 64k low  
miles, clean in/out. Leather,  
CO and more! Sale: \$16,498  
ID#001076;  
USED CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
SATURN 1995 SL2 AT, PS,  
AC, PL, PW, AM/FM Cass,  
CC, tilt, Custom wheels,  
extra clean. ABS. STK#  
458780 Sale: \$7,888  
Lloyd Wise  
Used Car Supermarket  
638-4000  
TOYOTA 1996 TACOMA  
EXTRA CAB, Certified by  
Toyota with 100,000 mile  
warranty, 5-speed, AC,  
cass, bedliner and more.  
\$12,888 ID#217405USED  
CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
TOYOTA 1995 AVALON  
XLS, Extra Sharp - Loaded.  
Only 50K miles. Under war-  
ranty. \$18,888.  
ID#062801USED CAR  
DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
TOYOTA 1995 CAMRY LE,  
4-door, certified by Toyota  
with 100,000 mile warranty.  
Extra Clean. Sale \$14,788  
ID# 531131  
USED CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
TOYOTA 1995 Land  
Cruiser, Excellent condition,  
loaded. Toyota's Best.  
Only \$34,988 ID#11856;  
USED CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
TOYOTA 1994 and 1995  
4-runner, 4x4 in stock.  
USED CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
TOYOTA 1993 AND 1996  
COROLLA Wagons, Auto,  
AC, PS, Cassette. Good  
condition. Starting at  
\$10,488 ID#032931;  
USED CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
TOYOTA 1990 Camry LE  
Wagon, automatic, V6, PW,  
PL, tilt, cruise, cassette,  
excellent value! Only 85K  
miles \$8,888 ID#130288;  
Stk#24991  
USED CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
TOYOTA 1989 PICKUP,  
4-speed, short bed camper  
shell, looks good, runs good.  
\$5,488 ID# 039898  
USED CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
TOYOTA 1988 Tercel,  
2-door coupe, automatic,  
excellent running condi-  
tion. \$4,488 ID#252044;  
USED CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
TOYOTA 1987 Corolla, AT,  
AC, 4-door, PS, AM/FM  
Cass, good condition. \$2500,  
113K. 510-521-3873  
VOLKSWAGEN 1998 Jetta  
GT, 4 door, air, 5-speed,  
loaded, black sunroof,  
\$17,300 obo. 510-337-9756.  
VOLKSWAGEN 1990 Jetta  
Carr. 5-speed, 104K, AC,  
original owner, clean. \$5700.  
510-482-5315  
VOLKSWAGEN 1983 GTI,  
new clutch, sunroof, drives  
well! \$1,450 or best offer.  
510-465-6765.  
VOLKSWAGEN 1967 Bug  
Classic, lovingly restored.  
Reduced! \$4,100, negoti-  
atable. Evenings:  
510-235-3403.  
VOLKSWAGEN Karmen  
Ghia 1972. Good condition,  
just tuned, leather interior,  
no dings, \$2800.  
510337-0740.  
VOLKSWAGEN 1997  
CABRIOLET CONV. Extra  
sharp auto, A/C, great value,  
low miles, excellent condi-  
tion. Only 14,988  
ID#082741;  
USED CAR DEPT.  
BERKELEY TOYOTA  
510-843-2955  
VOLVO 1988 740 GLE  
Turbo Sedan, loaded, AT,  
A1 condition. \$6000.  
530-8075; 786-2234.  
102 Bicycles  
24 SPEED Bianchi touring  
bike. 24" Was \$1200 asking  
\$600. 339-2506.

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60 month closed-end lease. 60 mos. at \$199 + tax. Total pymts \$11,940 + tax. Residual \$5,415. Cap cost \$14,775. Lease drive off \$0 down, \$1,000 rebate + 1st pymt, lic fee, refund deposit, bank fee & tax. VIN #557534.

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- ✓ Leather
- ✓ Moonroof
- ✓ ABS
- ✓ V-6
- ✓ Automatic
- ✓ Air Conditioning

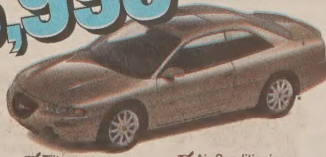
- ✓ Tilt
- ✓ Cruise
- ✓ Cassette/CD

- ✓ Alarm
- ✓ Power Locks
- ✓ Power Windows
- ✓ and more!

60 month closed-end lease. 60 mos. at \$249 + tax. Total pymts \$14,940 + tax. Resid. \$8,954. Cap cost \$19,995. Lease drive off \$0 down, \$1,000 rebate + 1st pymt, lic fee, refund deposit, bank fee & tax. 12k mi/yr. VIN #578334.

#### '98 SEBRING COUPE

**\$18,995** + fees after rebate



- ✓ Leather
- ✓ Moonroof
- ✓ Cassette/CD
- ✓ V-6
- ✓ Automatic
- ✓ Power Locks
- ✓ Power Windows

- ✓ Tilt
- ✓ Cruise
- ✓ Aluminum Wheels

- ✓ Air Conditioning
- ✓ Automatic
- ✓ and more!

VIN #110292

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**Won't Last!**

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- ✓ Roof Rack
- ✓ V-6
- ✓ Automatic

- ✓ Cassette/CD
- ✓ Tilt/Cruise
- ✓ Power Locks
- ✓ Power Windows

- ✓ Dual AC
- ✓ ABS & more

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After Rebate. VIN #155892.

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- ✓ AC
- ✓ CD
- ✓ and more

VIN #107234.

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**Super Sunday Only!**

- ✓ ABS
- ✓ Alarm
- ✓ Moonroof
- ✓ Automatic
- ✓ Air Conditioning

- ✓ Tilt
- ✓ Cruise
- ✓ Power Locks
- ✓ Power Windows
- ✓ Alum. Wheels
- ✓ and more

After Rebate. VIN #71444.

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